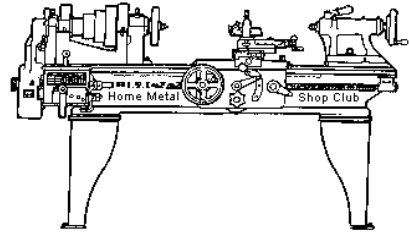




December 2023
Newsletter

Volume 28 - Number 12



<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 13 January 2024 Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 13 January 2024 at **noon** at TxRxLabs, 6501 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011 **and** on-line at Zoom.us. Log-in credentials are as follows:
Meeting ID = 873 6505 9193 Passcode 500888.

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!

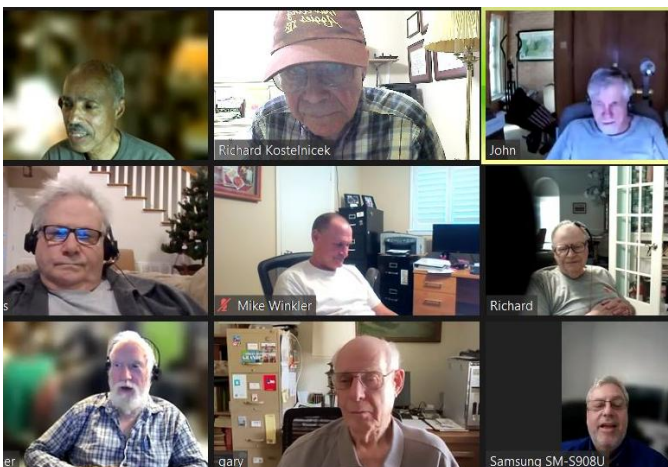
Ideas for programs at our monthly meeting are always welcomed. If you have an idea for a meeting topic, or if you know someone that could make a presentation, please contact [Vice-President Ray Thompson](#).

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. Also, the club is looking for a volunteer to serve as president.

Recap of the 09 December 2023 General Meeting

By Joe Sybille



There were 10 participants attending the 1:00 P.M. meeting. Vice-President Ray Thompson (below right photo) led the meeting.



Presentation

There was no presentation today. In its place were discussions initiated by vice president Ray Thompson on the future direction of the club. Discussions included declining membership, active participation of the current members, ideas to grow the membership, the format of the meeting, whether meeting only in person or meeting only virtually or some combination of both is preferred, whether another meeting venue is preferred, and whether club officers are required.

After those present offered their opinions, it was decided by majority vote to retain the current format for the meetings. Volunteers performing certain duties would continue to serve as officers of the club. The current practice of meeting in person every other month with a live streaming of the meeting would continue. Virtual only meetings would occur during months when not meeting in person. Those present at the meeting interested in locating another meeting venue will look for another one and offer the proposal to the club.

Show and Tell

Richard Douglas showed two scrapers he made to support his woodworking hobby. The scrapers are made from high strength steel (HSS). See photo below.



John Cooper showed several pictures. The first was a picture of a ten gallon aluminum tank mounted on his mill table. He mounted the tank there to mill flat the top surface of the threaded connection. It is believed a threaded air valve would not seat properly because of the irregular surface of the threaded connection. See photo at right.

Next, he showed sets of reamers purchased recently. See photos below.



Finally, he showed a two piece set of KIWI pliers used for extracting auto fuses from the fuse block. See photo at right.



Safety Moment

A participant is having difficulty unclogging a bathroom sink drain. The participant urged caution when using liquid plumber chemical solution. If the solution does not resolve the problem, a professional plumber will charge extra to unclog the drain because of the extra precautions required because of the chemical solution.

Problems and Solutions

A participant added a stepper motor power feed to the x-axis of a mill. Lately, due to the colder temperatures in his workshop, he has noticed a reduction in feed speed. He requested suggestions on what could be the problem. Suggestions offered included using a less viscous lubricant on the x-axis gearing and using a heater coil wrapped around the stepper motor.