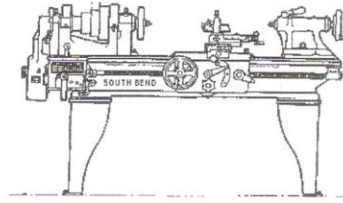


Home Metal Shop Club



Volume 1, Number 3 - July 1996

Journal of the Home Metal Shop Club of Houston, Texas. See back page for meeting information.

General News and Events

The second meeting of the Home Shop Metal Club was on June 15th. Several items of business were addressed, one of them being election of officers.

Elected to office are the following:

President - John Korman Ph 723-8597

Vice-President - Dick Drewes Ph 375-6586

Secretary - Jared Dunlap Ph 385-1731

Treasurer - Alan May Ph 932-9862

Newsletter Editor - George Carlson Ph 376-8307 FAX (713) 251-3860 Email geotek@accesscomm.net

: Club also adopted the by-laws as written in the June newsletter with the addition that meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. The Club has also decided to collect dues from each member of \$20.00 per year to cover the cost of the newsletter and other Club operating expenses. The Club will meet at 1:00PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at the Oak Forest Library.

Of Special Interest

We will be needing articles to publish in this Journal. If you would like to submit an article, idea, or photograph there are several ways this can be done. The best way to submit an article in machine readable form. A plain text file is the easiest to work with. It can be placed on a floppy and mailed to my home, or, attached to an Email and sent via the Internet. Articles and other ideas can also be faxed to my office at (713) 251-3860. This is a Spring number, and will be a toll call for most of you. If you have any photographs of projects, I would like to try to publish them here. If you have a scanner, send me the scanned image file in JPG or TIFF format over the Internet or via US mail. If you don't have a scanner, send the photo in the mail, or hand it to me at a meeting. I don't think the FAX will work well enough. Also, mechanical drawings in DXF, WMF, CGM, or AutoCAD DWG are easy to put into the newsletter.

Computer for the Home Shop

George Carlson

Computers have penetrated all facets of our lives and the home shop is no exception. Internet access and CAD are just part of what we can do with a computer at home. At the last meeting there was some discussion of computers suitable for home shop use and I thought I'd throw in my two cents here. Since we are all home shop enthusiasts it should be no problem for any of us to piece together a PC with out too much trouble. The main things is knowing what components are required, and loading software. I prefer to piece together a computer from individual components rather than buy a name brand unit for several reasons. The first reason is cost, it is much cheaper build, or buy, a "clone" than a name brand. Refurbished brand name units can be purchased at reasonable prices, but you are getting a computer that is already out of date. The second reason is cost of ownership. If a name brand computer has

a power supply failure, for instance, you must go back to the manufacturer and purchase his power supply. This is very expensive. Also, name brand computers can be very expensive or difficult to upgrade. This is because they tend to use non-standard hardware. So, build a "clone", when the motherboard is outdated, pull it out and put a new one in, just that simple. Below is a sample system and prices that I found in the business section of the June 30 Houston Chronicle.

Motherboard - Cyrix 5X86/133 This is a very fast motherboard	\$ 88.00
Memory - 16MB Simm	100.00
Hard Drive - 1.08 GB	164.00
3½ " Floppy Drive	25.00
6x CDROM with sound card etc.	100.00
1 MB VLB Video Card	29.00
Mini Tower Case with Power Supply	30.00
Mouse	12.00
Keyboard	20.00
28.8 FAX/Modem	100.00
14" VGA Display .28 dot pitch	230.00
Total	898.00

Used monitors can usually be purchased for about \$100.00. Most all other parts would be better bought new because old computer parts are usually pretty obsolete and hard to work with. Be sure you try out a used monitor before buying it. Make sure it doesn't have a pattern "burned in" the CRT. Also, make sure the focus is sharp and the resolution is good. There used to be a lot monitors sold that used .41mm dot pitch. These had very poor resolution and will not produce a good sharp image. When you buy the motherboard, it is a good idea to purchase the OEM version of DOS and Windows 95. They are about half the cost if you buy it with the computer. Computer stores will usually assemble the computer for about \$50. Be sure to get a CDROM, it will increase the usability of your computer, and make it more fun. Shareware available on CDROM is by far the cheapest way to get quality programs, art, etc. Give me a call if you have any other questions regarding Home Shop PC's, I will be glad to help.

Sources of Supply

This section of the Journal we will keep updating and adding to as time goes on. Please send it your favorite spots to get tools and material, I'll add it to the list. I just named a few below, there are many more to come. I have done business with all of these and I would recommend any of them.

Rutland Tool and Supply

Rutland has a store here in Houston and sells a wide range of machine and cutting tools.
6605 Roxburgh, Suite 100, Houston Ph 937-4787

Wholesale Tool

This company also has a store in Houston and sells machine shop supplies and tools.
8100 Pinemont, Houston Ph 895-7777

Bass Tool & Supply

Bass Tool is a Houston company that sells high quality cutting tools and supplies.
10600 Hempstead #100 Houston Ph 682-1889

MSC Industrial Supply

NY based with a huge catalog and very good service. Machine tools, supplies, and cutting tools.
Ph 1-800-645-7270

Rose Steel Center

Rose is my favorite place to get new and old steel, also aluminum and stainless.
2001 Taylor (1 block South of I10) Ph 880-7088

Steel-S Steel Supply

New and used steel.
6000 Jenson Drive Ph 697-7405

Union Iron and Metal

New and used steel, sometimes they have old machine tools for scrap.
2820 Holmes Road Ph 799-9960

Trident Company

New aluminum and stainless as well as CR 1018 for fine work. Sometimes they have barrels with drops they sell at a much reduced price.

9501 Baythorne Ph 462-2410

Electronic Parts Outlet

New and surplus electronic parts, some mechanical parts such as motors etc.

3753-B Fondren Ph 784-0140

J&T Industries

This is a REAL surplus dealer. Although they have mostly electronic stuff, they also have all sorts of other surplus items, mostly military

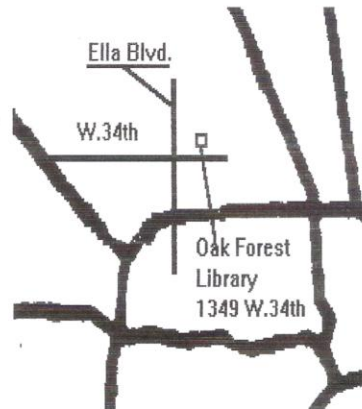
5025B Gessner Rd. Ph 896-0025

Don't Forget the Next Meeting !!

Meeting are held at the Oak Forest Library on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 20th. See the map JK supplied.

Don't Forget Your Dues

We can't operate without capital, so here's your opportunity to help out. The dues are \$20.00 per year. Please make out you check to Home Metal Shop Club and send it to Alan May, 10814 Everwood Lane, Houston, TX 77024. Even if you can't make the meetings, this will help assure that you continue reading the newsletter.



Hints and Kinks

Here is a neat way to make your own decals. Electronic Parts Outlet sells a material call Toner Transfer System. It is a package of heavy paper coated with a water soluble resin. The product is intended for use in making printed circuit board using a laser printer but we can use it to make transfer decals. To make a decal do the following: Print the desired image on the resin side of the paper. Apply several light coats of spray lacquer to the image. The trick here is to apply the lacquer light enough to prevent melting the image, but still provide a good support for the decal. After building up the lacquer coating, cutout the decal leaving a small border around the outside of the image. Soak in water and apply as you would any decal.

Got your own idea for clamping, machining, or finishing, send it in and share it with the rest of the Club.

-- SEE YOU ON JULY 20th --

Flip Side -- This is a picture of the "Victoria". A horizontal steam engine of 3/4 inch bore and stroke. It was a kit of castings and materials from Stuart Models. Dimensions without base - Length 15 1/2 , Width 6 1/2 , Height 7 1/8

