

# Metro Detroit Metalworking Club

## Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1 (July 1997)

Edited by \_\_\_\_\_

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### GRAND OPENING MEETING JULY 21, 1997

SOUTHFIELD, MI. Eleven of us met at the Southfield Civic center. Before officially beginning our meeting Bob Lorenz passed out some nifty drawings of lathe projects and handed each of us a can of highly toxic LED-PLATE Anti-Sieze Compound. We spent a few minutes introducing ourselves and speaking about our interests in metalworking. We then thanked Bob for starting this club and giving us toxic compounds by electing him president, secretary and treasurer. Stephen Gutierrez and David MacMillan volunteered to write the newsletter. We agreed to keep the name, "Metro Detroit Metalworking Club" and decided to schedule a meeting once a month, preferably Saturday mornings. Last, but not least, we set membership dues at \$5.00 and passed around the cash box which Bob graciously donated.

After sorting through the business affairs of our fledgling club we spent a pleasant hour or so chatting, generating all kinds of good ideas for club activities, and passing around various projects, books and a paper about catapults that Michael Latcha's students built. Michael Latcha entertained us with a crazy story about an anonymous caller who consulted him over the phone several times. This individual was determined to understand the physics of hurling a fifty pound, unidentified object one hundred fifty miles - for purposes that remain a mystery to us all. Other club members contributed several interesting stories about shooting tennis balls and potatoes out of metal tubes with flammable gasses. The newsletter editors were busy taking notes with the idea of publishing a collection of weapon making tales by mechanically inclined children who grew up to be metalworkers. Just how many ways can an imaginative young engineer shoot a potato out of a pipe?

Many more ideas for the club were discussed. Several members suggested we create a lending library of books and videos; it seems our club has a good share of bookhounds. We all enthusiastically supported the idea of creating a directory of metalworking sources in the metro Detroit area; many club members know of lots of places to pick up a used motor, a "random length" chunk of steel, or that old South Bend sitting in an attic... We discussed field trips to engine shows and industrial sites. Chuck Skarsaune informally invited us to his shop where we could see real machining - some of us for the very first time!

All in all, our first meeting was a success. We established some groundrules and came up with good ideas for our club's growth. We also learned that there are other people out there who are fascinated by mechanical devices, who love to get their own hands dirty and who like to read books about making things from metal. We all felt a little more comfortable knowing that we are not the only people in the world who are happy to spend a few hours destroying a handful of cutting tools to make a big hunk of steel a little smaller and a little smoother.

- Stephen Gutierrez

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## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Club will be on Wednesday, August 13, from 7 PM to 9 PM in the Marcotte Room of the Southfield Public Library. Call Bob Lorenz if you need directions.

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## HELP YOUR NEWSLETTER

The club newsletter needs articles from its members. Here are some ideas you might be interested in trying.

### Articles

Write an article about anything related to metalworking. Write about a project you're working on, explain what got you interested in metalworking, write about purchasing a major piece of equipment or revitalizing an "old boat anchor," write about an interesting person you met or place you visited, write about how your spouse feels about your interest in metalworking, write a technical article about a particular process (measuring, cutting, grinding, shaping, welding, metal finishing etc.), describe your home shop, tell a story about your experiences with a potato gun or other homemade weapons of mass destruction, explain how you built a kit, write about your experience as a metalworker (how and where and when did you learn to machine?), write about your experience helping someone else learn about metalworking...anything at all!

### Reviews

Write a book, magazine, video, or software review. Describe a recent or upcoming field trip to a metalworking show, historical industrial site or museum. Write a critical article about your favorite suppliers of metalworking tools and machines in the Metro Detroit area. Write a review about a machine or tool you use.

### Information

Make a list of local metalworking suppliers. Make a list of books or videos you are willing to loan to club members. Make a list of interesting web sites.

### Columns

Write a column for your newsletter. Some old standby topics include: a column for beginners, product reviews, tips and tricks of the trade, musings about metalworking, a question and answer (metalworking advice) column, want ads, a metalworking history/biography column (who was Maudslay?), single interest columns (horology, steam engines, combustion engines, scale trains, cars, boats planes), cartoons (any artists with a sense of humor out there?), current events/gossip (has Enco's quality gone up, MSC's gone down, are the new Atlas lathes really made in America by retired Boeing machinists??).

### Submissions

Send whatever you've got to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. We can help edit your work or help you write it. This newsletter could be a monthly, a quarterly, an annual, or a single, limited, short run edition...it's all up to you!

- Stephen Gutierrez

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## CLUB WEBSITE

The Club now has a "home page" on the World Wide Web. The URL (web address) is:

<http://www.msen.com/~lemur/mdmetalclub.html>

Right now, the website is quite small. It contains Bob Lorenz' statement of the club's purpose, a note about our next meeting, a place for the online versions of our newsletter, and a brief listing of metalworking resources and meta-resources available online. Included in these are links to the websites of several other metalworking clubs, all of which are worth a look.

Thanks to William Ward for his help with the site.

All suggestions about and, especially, additions to the website are welcome. This would be a good place to show off your projects. Some of the other club websites have excellent illustrated descriptions of members' projects. If you have a "home page" on the WWW, even if it's unrelated to metalworking or model engineering, we can link to it from the club site. If you'd like to put some metalworking-related material on the WWW but aren't sure how to do it, there are a couple of club members, including myself, who could help you write your page or get it ready for the web. If you have photos of your projects, I'd be happy to scan them for you.

Technical note: The website is located on space made available as a part of my personal Internet connection. I can afford about half a megabyte of space for the club's website. However, the "hypertext" nature of the World Wide Web means that the club's "site" doesn't have to be located on just one machine. It can be spread out over the machines of several club members. William Ward thinks that he might be able to put about 250 kilobytes of club material on his account (thanks!) If other members had spare webspace that we could use, especially for personal project pages, that would be great. The more people who are involved with developing the club's website, the better the site will be.

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