

Metro Detroit Metalworking Club

Newsletter

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MEETING NOTES

MACOMB COUNTY, MI. The October meeting at the South Campus of Macomb Community College, I feel was a very successful, we did not get too much club business done but the tour of the industrial arts section of the college was fantastic. There were a couple of small balloon powered engines at the meeting, I wish mine ran as well at the meeting as it did the first day I made it. I think I will solder the connections on the next one. It seems the "crazy glue" crystallized and came loose after a couple of weeks, oh well! We will see how the next model turns out, or at least what excuse I can come up with!

We also had 5 new members join the club, without looking at the member list, right now I think we are at about 25 members. I also remember at the October meeting someone stating "can't we have all the meeting here at the college." John Kacir, the member that arranged the Oct. meeting said he will look into the possibility of having more meeting at the college and possibly on some Saturdays or Sundays and not necessarily at night. I hope John will be able to give us more information on this subject at the Nov. meeting.

I am delighted with the way our club is growing, but I have some concerns. I left the meeting wondering if everyone feels as if we have served a purpose meeting together. I know, a question and answer session was requested to be held at our meetings, we did not do that at the last meeting, my fault and lack of time probably. Perhaps if we have questions we could mail them into the newsletter preceding the monthly meeting. This would allow time for research and give an indication of where our interests lie. Of course, we will still welcome spontaneous questions at the meetings.

I think we would also like to hear more of or see more of the projects that the members are working on. Do you have some information or techniques that you would like to share with the members? Send it in to the newsletter/web site because we really would like to hear from you.

We discussed having some type of metalworking contest for those that want a project or challenge. I still like the metal acorn challenge discussed at our first meeting. Anyone care to accept the challenge? Out of metal, create your idea of an acorn. The acorns will be judged by the competitors and the competitors will decide a suitable prize. Lets say the acorns will be judged at the January meeting.

Plans for balloon powered engines and a plexi glass engine have been made available, if you missed the plans contact me and I will make a copy for you. These little engines can be a challenge to construct and run. Perhaps you want to make a gasoline or steam engine and you need some materials, bring your list of materials needed to the meeting and I bet someone has the materials or knows where to find them.

From time to time I have surplus metalworking items that I would like to sell or trade, perhaps we could have a "for sale or trade" section in our newsletter. Why not bring some of the small items or pictures of the larger items to the meeting?

Members are giving up an evening to attend club meetings, but let's make sure we are getting something from it. Our meetings will only be as interesting as we care to make them, bring your questions, projects, your ideas and your surplus to the meetings.

- Bob Lorenz

MORE MEETING NOTES

I'd just like to add a couple of footnotes to Bob's account of our meeting. First, our thanks should go out to **Pat Fisher**, who led us on our tour of the remarkable facilities at the Macomb Community College South Campus. This industrial arts facility comprises 200,000 square feet and, if memory serves, 43 separate labs. We were only able to tour a small part of the facility in the time available. In addition to basic machine shop and welding labs, it includes labs devoted to subjects such as hydraulics, industrial imaging and inspection, and metrology. The inspection lab has two electron microscopes and a number of extremely high quality optical inspection microscopes.

In my opinion the most remarkable of these labs is the metrology lab. The "inner sanctum" of this lab is a Class 10,000 clean room on its own specialized foundation, isolated from the rest of the building. It is fully equipped, with two **large** surface tables and a full complement of measuring equipment and references. Pat treated us to the sight of a large granite surface table accessory floating nearly frictionlessly on the surface table. It was almost eerie to see pure inertia in action, unencumbered by friction. To top it off, this metrology lab has a bronze bust of Carl Edvard Johansson (1864-1943), the inventor of gage blocks.

Pat Fisher was responsible for much of the construction of this facility, and it was clear that he took great pride in it, and especially in the metrology lab. The facility is amazing, and I'm grateful for his excellent tour of it.

- David M. MacMillan

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