



The
NEMES
NEW ENGLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY INC.

Gazette

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July Meeting

We will have a Zoom meeting in July at 7 PM on July 11 2024. [The first Thursday is July 4, which is a day for parades, cookouts and fireworks, not NEMES meetings]

An invite will be sent attached to this Gazette.

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Club Business

We are now collecting dues for next year.

NEMES Dues are now due for the year. Dues are \$25.00. Make checks payable to NEMES, and send them to our treasurer, Rob Goeller
34 Middlebury Lane
Beverly, MA 01915

[Note from the President] NEMES is now billing members, you can pay with a credit card, as I did.

From the Treasurer:

To members who have tried to e-mail me using our published treasurer's e-mail address: Our e-mail address has been the target of an exorbitant number of spam e-mails from all sorts of people and organizations marketing their products and services. The number of these e-mails is so large (hundreds in the course of only a week) that it is almost impossible for me to find e-mails from members. I apologize to those who have tried to contact me without response, I did not see your e-mail. [President's note: mine too!]

Unfortunately, our current e-mail server does not provide a function to block these unwanted e-mails. We are working to alleviate this problem. However, in the mean time, it is unlikely I will be able to respond to member's e-mails. You can write to me as needed, if I see your e-mail I will respond but the current reality is that it is unlikely that I will see said e-mail. If you need to contact me, best to use the US Postal Service at the address in the introductory column.

On another subject, many members have mailed their dues checks to the Charles River Museum, rather than directly to me. Unfortunately, these checks, many from early 2023, were only recently forwarded to me and many are too old to be deposited. Any checks that I cannot deposit, I will return to the member. If you have recently sent a check to the Museum, please let me know via

standard US Postal Service (not e-mail) and we will watch the Museum's mail for these checks.

When we have alleviated the e-mail problem, I will let you know in a future Gazette.

APPAREL: Please check out the NEMES Aprons, T-Shirts, Denim Shirts and Sweat Shirts. We are happy to ship any of this clothing directly to your home.



President's Corner Bob Timmerman

We had some good suggestions for in-person meetings. Members are invited to make suggestions for in-person meetings. Help with the meetings would always be appreciated.



From the Editor's Desk Bob Timmerman

We sometime get complaints from members that a NEMES event conflicts with some other event. Usually, we do not even know about the other event. Please let me know of other events, and I will publish such details as I have in the Gazette.

Two months ago, Dick Boucher mentioned the high cost of shipping small lots of metal. I replied that Grainger has reasonable prices on small pieces of metal, even materials such as stainless. To purchase, you have to have an account, which is not hard to establish—Grainger is rather lax on the definition of "Business-to-Business". To save on shipping, you have to have to pick your order up at one of their branches. They have branches in Norwood, Watertown, Woburn, and several other locations in the Boston area.

Many of you know that there is a bricks-and-mortar metals store in Woburn, Metals Supermarket. The

one time I used them, I found their service sub-optimum.

There is some good news on the metals front. Metals Online is now offering a flat rate of \$11.99 to ship all orders of less than: 3 feet long, or 24" x 36", or 25 pounds. The last one should help, you can put a lot of small orders together to get just under the 25 pound limit. They say shipping rates for larger orders have also been reduced. They have a warehouse in Wallingford, Connecticut, which is about a 2 hour drive from Boston. So, if you have a really big order, it might be worth driving your truck down.

Vendor Sale Notice

This is addressed to those of you who have Aloris quick change toolposts on your lathes, or the Chinese clone, the Phase II toolpost. Aloris toolholders are expensive, and the Phase toolholders seem to only be sold as part of sets.

In the July sale catalog, MSC is selling individual Phase II Type 1 toolholders (turning only) for about \$24. Their website also lists the type 2 toolholders (turning with a v groove for a boring bar) for only slightly more. This is on page 40 of the July catalog. Pricing is effective through August 2, 2024. They also have free shipping for orders over \$99.

Date of 2025 NEMES Model Engineering Show

The 2025 NEMES Model Engineering Show will be on March 15, 2025. This is later than we wanted, but the first two weekends in March were taken.

Date of 2026 NEMES Model Engineering Show

We have reserved the first weekend in March, 2026 for the NEMES Model Engineering Show. This puts the show out of the way of big snowstorms, which usually come in February.

Upcoming Events

I have been receiving notices from the Owls Head Museum up in Maine. Keep an eye on their website as well.

Any news on events in August or September?

Please send them to me, Bob Timmerman, editor of the Gazette.

Reports from the Sandy Hill Locomotive Works

Dick Boucher has not been in the shop this month. Here is his note of regret of why there is no column:

Bob, with regrets because of Bea and I transporting 2-1/2 cords of firewood around the house and stacking it on a porch [Ed note: 1 cord of wood is 128 cubic feet, or a pile 2 feet wide x 4 feet high x 16 feet long, so that is a lot of wood!] and me getting a little heat exhaustion early in the month and our daughter and her daughter and her daughter's husband and our granddaughter's son (great grandson James) being here I have not been in the shop at all this month so I have no article for the Gazette. [I should hope grandchildren and great-grandchildren take precedence over work in the shop] I hope to be back at it next month

Dick B.

Shop Tool Modification Steve Earle

If you're anything like me (hopefully not too many of you are so afflicted ha ha!), there are little things in

your shop that are constant annoyances. But you live with them because they aren't really worth too much time and trouble to attend to them. Following is the story of one of those "little things", that I finally took a couple hours and dealt with it.

My little Famco horizontal bandsaw is a true workhorse. It's the smallest saw I could find that will take a 3/4" width blade. Some years ago I grafted an air cylinder onto the lead screw for the moving jaw, so that I could still roughly but quickly position the jaw with the screw, and then could flip an air valve to get the last 1/8" of clamping. This saves huge amounts of time when doing multiple dozens of repetitive cuts.

But the annoyance I've lived with until now is the position of the lead screw handwheel. When the saw frame is fully down, or close to down, that handwheel was hiding under/behind the handwheel for the blade tension. You just can't get to the jaw handwheel without lifting the frame up significantly. Aggravating. See picture 1 below, which shows the old position of the wheel, and me holding the wheel where I really wanted it to be.



Basically, I just needed to make a shaft extension. This was a good opportunity to use a piece of unknownium, aka mystery metal, that any shop has laying around. And I wanted to retain what I think is called "backward compatibility" – i.e. I wanted to be able to change it back to the old way without having to re-make anything or lose anything. I may never revert, but the opportunity is there.

The shaft extension, about 6" long, is drilled/bored/tapped on one end, to screw onto the

current shaft end. A couple set screws grab the flats of the old shaft. The outboard end is drilled/tapped for a piece of threaded rod, actually a socket-head screw which was red-loctited in place and de-headed afterwards. Flats are cut on the turned-down end so it duplicates the end of the shaft where the wheel used to live. See picture below, cutting the flats. Indexing to cut the opposite side was just an eyeball setup – very much non-critical.



A related annoyance was the unbalanced-ness of the handwheel itself. I'd just get the wheel nicely where I wanted it, and it would spin itself thru a half-turn until gravity was satisfied. I didn't need high-speed dynamic balancing, but something needed to be done. I did a quick calculation of the volume of the handle, and figured how many 1/2" holes of how deep I'd need to drill, to get about the same volume. Then I hedged it a little more, since the holes are not exactly where the handle is. And it worked! Or close enough for me, anyhow.



The final result is shown below. I'm happy and I think the saw is happy too.



The final result