



The
NEMES
NEW ENGLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY INC.

Gazette

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February Meeting

We will have a Zoom meeting in February at 7 PM on February 6, 2025.

An invite is attached to this Gazette.

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Club Business

We are now collecting dues for next year.

From the Treasurer

Members, as was mentioned in the President's Column last month, we are changing our management service provider from Capital Hill Management to Club Express. This process is moving forward but more slowly than anticipated. Because of this, invoices for membership renewal will be late this year and will have a new look as they will come directly from Club Express rather than Square.

Our relationship with Cap Hill was somewhat awkward although they did reliably distribute the Gazette and track membership and dues payments. We do expect a significant reduction in our annual expenses since Club Express will sponsor our host our web site, replacing Dream Host. Other changes for services for our club will be coming as well. We will try and keep the membership informed through the Gazette.

In the mean time, if you wish, feel free to send a check to:

Robert Goeller – for NEMES
34 Middlebury Lane
Beverly, MA 01915-1300
They will be recorded as received.

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.

Orders should go to our Treasurer, Rob Goeller. His address is in the opposite column.



President's Corner Bob Timmerman

We are in the process of switching to Club Express. There may be some startup problems for a while.

I would like to propose some in- person meetings.

First topic: a group lunch at a different type of restaurant in the late Spring or very early Summer. We could meet at the Chateau in Waltham for traditional food, or, there is a pretty good Chinese restaurant in Waltham that could handle a group of up to about 20 people in mid-afternoon. At that time of year, the days are long enough that a 3 PM meal would still have people home before dark.

Second Topic: One of our museum volunteers, Roger Wiegand, is a very skilled woodworker. Some people may be aware that he has restored an antique Fairgrounds Organ, and displays it at the

Steampunk Festival, among other places. Now he and some other friends are building a group of pipe organs. Pipe organ building is *precision* woodworking. I was surprised to learn that he is doing all the cutting, even of small parts, with a 10 inch table saw. He has offered to give a talk on this, but wants to give the talk in his shop in the barn behind his house in Wayland. With our low turnout at meetings, I do not want to schedule a talk and only have 4 people show up. So, people who are interested in this topic, please contact me, at my email address. If we get more than about 6 or 8 people interested, I will approach Roger. We need interested attendees for this meeting to happen.

Third Topic: Howard Gorin has negotiated a donation of my 1903 Universal Milling Machine to the Charles River Museum. I was over there two weeks ago, and found a space for it. It will take about a month to figure out how to move it, and another month or so to get it installed, and some minor repairs made. After then, I will give a talk on "What you can do on a Universal Milling Machine that you can't do on a Bridgeport. That talk will be at the Museum, probably in late March or early April, and will feature a live demonstration of a 1903 machine took in action.

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

Dick Boucher has retired as modelmaking correspondent. Here is his retirement email:

Bob, I am sorry but I am not going to be able to be contributing to the Gazette any longer. Age and

some non life threatening health problems like my knees being full of arthritis have kept me from spending a lot of time in the shop (and just spending the day on U-Tube in a chair) as in I haven't done any serious machine work in the last two months and am seriously thinking about starting to move some of the machines like the Hardinge chucker and the 10 EE on to new owners. Sorry. Dick B.

[Editor note: If Dick is willing to send his Hardinge Chucker and Monarch 10EE to new owners, he must be thinking seriously about retiring.]

We do have a new Model Engineering Correspondent, John O'Brien, who runs the Revolution Makerspace in Waltham. His first column, on getting a new lathe for the shop, runs this month.

We also have one article from Steve Earle.

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.

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.

Equipment Free/for Sale

I am downsizing my shop, and have two items on this list this month, with more to follow:

National Cylinder Gas “Sureweld” arc welder.

This looks like a rebadged Miller “Thunderbolt”. This is about 50 years old, still works, but is AC only; it will not run a 6010 rod, but will run a 6011 rod very well. I am selling this to NEMES members for \$45 (it will be 55 on Craig’s List. If you want a power cable, I can sell you a length of 4 conductor # 6 for \$15 (\$20 on Craig’s List). This is about what I would get at the scrapyard. I used this for my theater lighting work, so it is 4 conductor (2 hot wires, neutral, and ground), while the welder only needs 3 conductors, 2 hot + ground. You will have to change some plugs to match the plug on the welder.

Workbench Material

I am giving away some old maple bowling alley wood that Howard Gorin and I salvaged.

This is made up of strips of rock maple, roughly 3” wide x 1” thick, set on edge, so the overall thickness is about 3” The width of the slabs is about 3 feet, x 8 feet to 10 feet long. I have about 6 of them, but will need some help getting access to them. Here is a picture of a bench I made out of one such slab, after I cleaned off the old varnish and slapped on a coat of urethane.



This raw material is in my cellar, free for the taking. There is some stuff stored on top of the slabs, and the slabs are heavy, so two people will be needed to pick up the material, both to move the stuff on top of the slabs, and to handle the slabs.

John O’Brien’s Column on modelmaking

January was a big month for the shop. The new lathe finally arrived.

Up to this point we’ve been getting by with a Harbor Freight 7 x 16 mini lathe, which hasn’t been great. Sometimes it can cut Delrin, sometimes it can’t. I know guys like Frank Hoose have shown that they can use one a mini lathe successfully (RIP to his Youtube channel, I miss those videos) but I never had any luck with it. If anyone knows anyone who might be interested in it feel free to let me know, we’ll be getting rid of it one way or another out of the shop to make room for the new lathe.



Caption: The Harbor Freight Central Machinery 7 x 16 minilathe. What a piece of sassafras

The new lathe is a Grizzly G0824 gunsmithing lathe. I won't bore you with all the specifications of the lathe which you can look up yourself on the internet if you are interested. Instead I'll go through some of the thinking behind its purchase and tell you about the final delivery experience.

The first critical factor behind the purchase of the G0824 was a grant from the state. Massachusetts has a program called the Collaborative Workspace Program which provides funding for makerspaces and co-working spaces. I'd applied before back in 2022 and did not get a grant. I applied again earlier this year and this time was fortunate enough to get a grant to buy some new equipment and do some renovations. Thanks, state government!

The second factor that led to the decision to purchase the G0824 was my experiences with the JET JVM 948K milling machine I acquired back in February of last year. It has worked decently well for the purposes we need it for at the makerspace (mostly rough machining and some standard machining). But getting parts for it has been impossible. Often I can make due with Bridgeport parts, but when I can't, I'm looking at having to fabricate the parts myself, a proposition I have mixed feelings about. On the one hand, I like machining, so any excuse to do some I'm happy to have. On the other hand, there are always higher priorities at the shop (members breaking equipment, equipment needing servicing, etc.) so things like replacing the levers for the power feed and the high low gear selector tend to not get done. The end result is a pang of guilt every time I look at the mill and see the missing or broken levers. *Why haven't you fixed me*

yet, it whispers to me, and I do not have a suitable response. I don't want another unfixed old machine on my conscience.

So, when I had the opportunity to get a lathe, I wanted to get a new one. When I inquired on *Practical Machinist*, a lot of people pointed me towards Precision Mathews, or suggested I purchase old iron. I've only heard good things about Precision Mathews. That said, Grizzly has been around longer (~40 years vs ~20 years) and my sense is that Grizzly has more revenue than Precision Mathews. While there are horror stories on the internet about Grizzly machines and poor customer service, I've only had good experiences with Grizzly machines and service so far. So, I went with Grizzly, on the premise that they are more likely to be around in the future if I need them and that the G0824 was slightly cheaper than the comparable Precision Mathews machine (which I think would be like the PM-1440-2SM w/ DRO). I will briefly mention Kent, LeBlond and Sharp as other brands I looked at but had to dismiss because the cost was too high. I suspect they are better machines but at a makerspace the higher quality is going to go unnoticed, unused, and lead to possibly more expensive repairs. Anyway if Grizzly turns out to be a mistake I'll be sure to mention it in an upcoming column.

As to why I wanted a gunsmithing lathe versus some other kind of lathe, some members mentioned an interest in gunsmithing, and the larger bore opens up more possibilities for member projects. Having made my decision, I placed the order in November. The lathe was backordered with nary a delivery date to be had. The delivery people called on Tuesday December 31st of 2024 to let me know the lathe would be arriving on January 3rd of 2025. They indicated someone would call one hour ahead to let me know they were coming to the shop.

I should clarify at this point that the makerspace is largely unstaffed. I have hired a new part time person, but she typically only works off hours, as she has a full time job in addition to the part time one for the makerspace. As a result, it is always a total cluster of baskets to get things delivered. People are either delivering things to the shop without notice or delivering things which require equipment to unload which we do not have.

Case in point, the delivery person expected that I had a fork lift on hand to receive the lathe. When

they arrived within the delivery window (yeah!) but with no notice (boo!) they asked where my forklift was. When I explained I didn't have one, he indicated that I would then need a long fork narrow pallet jack to unload the lathe. Either I missed something in all the paperwork or they didn't tell me that I would need a forklift to unload it. There is a big fat warning in bold on the G0824 product page that "Due to product size, this item must be delivered to a loading dock or unloaded with a forklift." But it was delivered to a loading dock, so I figured that the or meant I didn't need a forklift. I think that is how the word "or" is supposed to work. Whichever the cause, it didn't change the fact that I didn't have one.

Now, I do have a pallet jack for just such occasions, but it isn't the narrow width kind, and it doesn't have long forks, so no use there. Thankfully, I had a farm jack in the truck of my car I had just bought for another purpose. I ended up unboxing the farm jack right on the loading dock. We used a Johnson bar to one end up on blocks high enough to get the farm jack in place, and then used the farm jack to get a furniture dolly under it. We borrowed a narrow width regular length forked pallet jack from one of the neighbors and we were in business. We successfully got it into the shop, I thanked the guy with a cash tip and then replaced the pallet jack with another furniture dolly and returned the pallet jack to my neighbor.

Opening up the crate and seeing whether there is really a lathe in there will have to wait. The shop is closed for about a week to allow contractors to epoxy the floor. But I'm excited to see what's inside!



The new lathe in its crate



The new lathe in its crate

Shop Tips

Steve Earle

Let's talk a bit about shop organizing and planning. I'm not necessarily the most organized or forward-looking person in the world, but I have established some "protocols", so to speak, to make my life a bit easier and to hopefully save my butt if things go awry. It's a good idea to take a bit of time and develop a system of organization that works for you. This doesn't have to all happen in one afternoon; just do what you can, when you can. I seem to be constantly picking away at little organizational things as I think of them and have a minute to spare.

Something that some of us are good at, and some less so, is cleanup and getting things back where they belong. I feel that this can be learned behavior, and if you do it enough, it will come naturally. Myself, I hate walking through metal chips, so I seem to be constantly doing quick floor sweeps. I'm less diligent about other cleanup tasks, but I'm working on it. Few things are more annoying to me than knowing where a tool should be, but not finding it there. In today's world of cheap computers, it's easy to have a computer in your shop, for shop-related activities. Most of us go on-line for buying, researching, ebay, forums, communication, etc. Why not have that right in your shop? I write these silly little articles, in between part cycles, at a computer terminal right on my shop floor!

Also on a computer, you can have files (Word doc or similar) for shop-related comments. Make a list of supplies you need or want. Maybe categorize them according to hardware store, ebay search, known vendors, whatever. Have a list of little shop projects and improvements you'd like to accomplish. Take pictures of odd setups that worked – or didn't! Then you could share your successes and foibles with others.

I realize that most people use their phones for many of these functions, but don't restrict yourself to the phone. Think about it – you have 2,361 photos on your phone – are they backed up anywhere? Or when your buddy is visiting your shop, and you want to show him a picture of that crazy machining setup from last year... Scroll scroll scroll... I know it's here... Scroll scroll scroll... Hang on... Scroll scroll scroll... Now if it was on your computer, in a file or directory named and related to that setup, there it would be! And it would be a full-monitor- sized picture, instead of a half-postie-note sized thing that you're both squinting at.

Related to backing up your files – DO IT!!! It can be as simple as periodically transferring to a thumb drive, or more advanced like an automatic paid "cloud" backup service. If you do use a local device – thumb drive, removable hard drive, etc. – make sure it's removed from the computer to a safe location. Otherwise one good spike or lightening hit could fry it all. Oh, it's a good idea to have a UPS on the computer, too.

Of course the most use for a shop computer is in the designing/drawing/machining realm. There are numerous free or nearly-free CAD programs out there. Since I haven't researched any of them, I'm no good for opinions about them. Personally I do pay for the programs I use every day, and I don't like paying for them, but I do like being able to get a U.S.-based person on the phone at any time to walk me thru a specific issue that I may be having difficulties with. Hey, now there's a good use for a phone...

Another use for computer documentation files is something we don't like to talk about – our eventual and inevitable demise. Does your spouse (or kids or grandkids) know anything about the value of your shop equipment? Take pictures of your stuff, including any doodads that may be specific to a particular machine. Make notes about exactly where those doodads are located. Numbering and labeling toolboxes, shelves and drawers is easy, and it may

well help you too, while you're still here making chips.

Be realistic when assigning dollar values to your equipment. Things are almost never worth what we may have invested them, in either money or time. Keep in mind that whoever may be disposing of your assets, may have little to no knowledge or interest in their value, or in holding out for a better offer. At the same time, they should know that the 25-lb widget over there is a \$500 item, not a 5-buck yard-sale paperweight. And it's OK to say that you overpaid for something, but that you really liked it and it was worth it to you at the time. Text files are small, so write in a lot of detail. Although this may not really qualify as "provenance", it may make a machine more interesting to a potential buyer.

I've had the dubious pleasure of being at shop cleanouts, and even machinery auctions, where people had very little idea what things were, where they were, and what went with what. I've seen collets that were very specific to a certain lathe, lumped together in a box lot

of assorted collets, or worse, put with a machine that they didn't belong with. I've seen equipment sold at scrap prices, or just scrapped outright, when with a little bit of foresight things could have gone to a good home and realized the seller more money.

Since I don't want to end this on a down note, here's some brief comments on the good side. I have in fact accidentally deleted or over-written important computer files, and recovered them painlessly after I dope-slapped myself and saw what I did. My own little procedures for making parts have saved me countless hours of time trying to remember what I did. Even if incomplete, just reading thru them would jog my memory as to what was done. Then I'd amend it so I wouldn't need the "jog" next time! My shop world is not perfect, but it gets more perfect for me each time I do another little organizational step.

So try some organizing and documenting. It doesn't need to be how I do it, or what someone else does, as long as it works for you. You may find that your shop time becomes more pleasurable if you're not being irritated by dis-organizational annoyances. We're in this to enjoy making chips, so get out there and do it!

Zoom Meeting Link

The meeting link is in the blue box. You can just barely see Zoom meetings. You have to push both “control”, and click your mouse to follow the link.

Meeting ID: 620 919 9191

Passcode: 4F5F4b

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,6209199191#,,,,*676622#

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ZOOM MEETINGS

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