



# The NEMES Gazette

NEW ENGLAND MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY INC.

No. 142

February 2008

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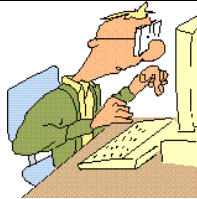
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## Editor's Desk

Victor Kozakevich

I had a chance recently to watch a DVD of the movie, "October Sky", based on Homer Hickam's own story about his teenage adventures with model rockets back in the late 1950s. In the "extras" section, Hickam was interviewed and remarked he had grown up in a wonderful time, because in today's world, most of his rocket experiments would probably be illegal.

A recent article in the Boston Globe talked about some high power rocket clubs out west, that still fly the kinds of steel tube, sugar/oxidizer fueled models Homer's "Rocket Boys" did. One modeler displayed the motor that pushed his 700 pound unarmed Nike model to 14,740 feet in 30 seconds. These are not your hobby shop rockets.

The people flying these rockets tend to be middle-aged guys, perhaps taking a youthful pastime to new heights. But nowadays, you'd better check with the Feds: the FAA for clear airspace, then get permits from the BATFE for those "explosive" rocket fuels you're making. The good old days exist only in the movies.

## Next Meeting

Thursday, Feb.7, 2008

7:00 PM. Meetings held at:  
 Charles River Museum of Industry  
 154 Moody Street  
 Waltham, Massachusetts

## Membership Info

Annual dues of \$25 (via checks made payable to "NEMES" and mailed to our membership secretary) for the calendar year are due by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.

Missing a Gazette? Send mail or email to our publisher.

Addresses are in the left column.

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## ***President's Corner***

Dick Boucher

### **The Meeting**

This month we will be sharing the Shop Wisdom of Rollie Gaucher. I asked Rollie to repeat the talk he gave on lapping. The last time he talked to the group I went home and applied the methods he spoke about on my Stuart Turner Twin Launch Engine and the results in the smoothness and ease with which the engine turned over was amazing. Rollie also suggested the he may find something new to talk about. I have never been disappointed with any talk Rollie presented to the group.

### **Our Show**

Well it is that time of year again. Our annual Model Engineering Show at the Charles River Museum of Industry will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup> this year. This has always been a very enjoyable day for us, and a great benefit to the museum, in return for the kindness they extend to us during the year. Gail Martha and her crew are already preparing the refreshment table so don't forget to bring something for them to have to offer at the table if you can.

As always if you arrive early, your help in setting up the hall will be appreciated. We will again be using the Jackson Room and the museum main floor for displays. Please do not put anything on the tables before we get them covered as this slows down the set up. Help breaking down in the afternoon is also appreciated.

One more thing, Rich Sabol will again be selling Leadloy stock in the parking lot before the show. Get there early as this goes fast, then help us set up the hall.

### **Miscellaneous Ramblings**

The big ramble last month was to Cabin Fever. We had 34 folks on the bus and I am sure all enjoyed the weekend despite a few glitches.

The show was held in a much larger venue this year so it seemed as though it was not quite as well attended as in the past but I still feel I didn't see all the marvelous displays by the model engineers and offerings by the many various vendors. Again this year, the bus was heavier coming home than when it went, as quite a few of us found deals we couldn't resist. Myself, I finally broke down and purchased one of the Diamond Tool Holders (usual disclaimer). I really like this tool and would definitely recommend it to anyone especially fellows entering the hobby for easing their lathe tool grinding. There is a small fixture included in the set that enables the user to consistently grind the tool bit to the same shape. I have mounted mine in one of my quick-change tool holders and it works very well. I will have it at the next meeting for show and tell.

Saturday evening after the hall closed, Gary Schoenly and the vendors arranged a visit to the York Industrial Museum just a short distance from the Fairgrounds. We had a quick buffet to curb our appetites and then viewed a marvelous display of the industrial history of the York area. It was a truly wonderful museum and thanks to having a lot of space available, it was well laid out in categories. I sure wish we had as much space at Charles River.

Despite promising myself that I would not acquire any more casting sets until I have cleared up a backorder of unstarted or unfinished projects in the shop, I did weaken and got another steam engine set from PM research (again usual disclaimer).

One major glitch was, on the bus trip home, we forgot one of our member's engines in the hall in York, PA. This really took the glow off the trip for Norm and myself, when we got to Riverside and found it was not on the bus. Fortunately, Gary has it and is making arrangements to get it back to the owner. For future trips, we should all remember to put our names on our engines, packing crates and boxes, just in case.

I want to thank Norm Jones for his help and guidance with the trip, Dick Koolish for keeping track of the checks and finances and Errol Groff for the great new sign that we proudly display over our tables. But most of all thanks to those who participated in the trip since if you folks don't go we can't have a trip and remember the bus has fifty four seats so there is room for twenty more folks next year.

*Dick B.*



## ***The Meeting***

Todd Cahill

January brings us one of our semiannual “poster sessions” which gives our hard working president a break from his duties of having to arrange for a speaker and gives me, your humble secretary, a break from having to report what that speaker said. So here, once again, are a few highlights from the evening in the form of some photos with some short captions and the possibility of a forgotten name or two.



Joe Ng brought in these Stuart Engines. These were begun in 1981 and are still incomplete.



Vern's much-improved “Iron Mike” power hacksaw. It now has adjustable stops and a turn off switch, as well as a pretty slick paint job.



Gene Martha made this ER spring collet holder that works in the headstock of his lathe.

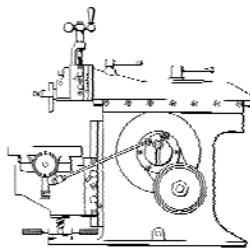




Carl West teaches blacksmithing in his Waltham shop and brought in some examples of his work.



A young man named Adam brought in this Stuart beam engine underway. The well-polished castings and the use of B.A. fasteners caught my attention.



## ***Metal Shapers***

Kay R. Fisher

### ***The Steam Man of the Prairies.***

BY EDWARDS ELLIS,

#### **CHAPTER II.**

##### **“HANDLE ME GENTLY.”**

WHEN Ethan Hopkins had surveyed the steam man fully, he drew a long sigh and exclaimed:

“Wal, naow, that’s too bad!”

“What’s that?” inquired Bicknell, who had been not a little amused at his open-mouthed amazement.

“Do you know I’ve been thinking of that thing for ten years, ever since I went through Colt’s pistol factory in Hartford, when I was a youngster?”

“Did you ever think of any plan?”

“I never got it quite right, but I intended to do it after we got through digging for gold. The thing was just taking shape in my head. See here, naow, ain’t you going to give a fellow a ride?”

“Jis’ what I wanted; shall I run it for you?”

“No, I see how it works; them ‘ere thingumbobs and gimcracks do it all.”

“Johnny, hyar, will tell yer ‘bout it.”

The little humpback sprung nimbly down, and ran around the man, explaining as well as he could in a few moments the manner of controlling its movements. The Yankee felt some sensitiveness in being instructed by such a tiny specimen, and springing into the wagon, exclaimed:

“Git eout! tryin’ to teach yer uncle! I knowed how the thing would work before you were born!”

Perching himself on the top of the wood which was heaped up in the wagon, the enthusiastic New Englander carefully looked over the prairie to see that the way was clear, and was about to “let on steam,” when he turned toward the Irishman.

“Come, Mickey, git up here.”

T.D.C.

# BEADLE'S HALF DIME LIBRARY

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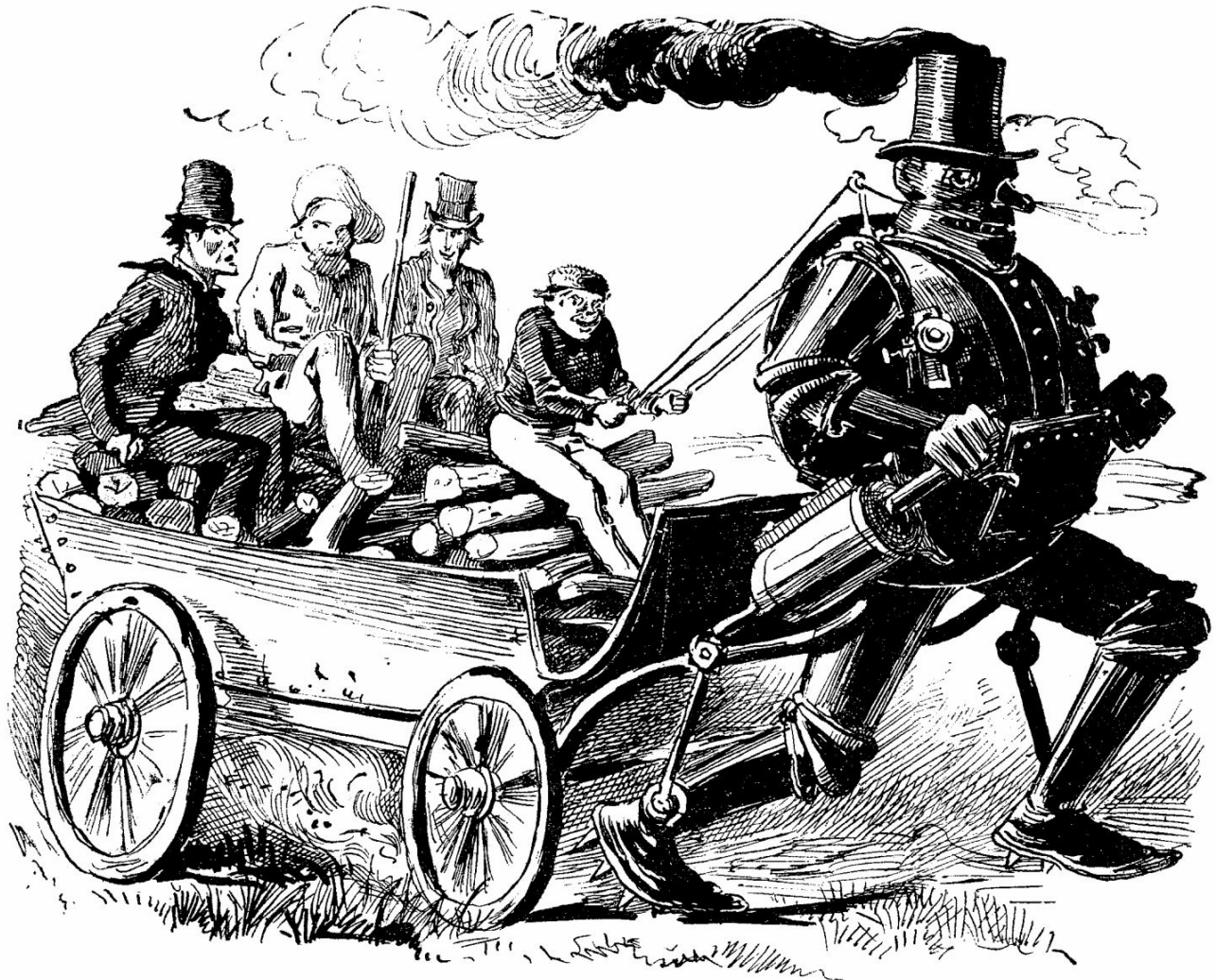
Price,  
5 Cents.

No. 271.

## THE HUGE HUNTER; or, THE STEAM MAN OF THE PRAIRIES.

BY EDWARD S. ELLIS.

AUTHOR OF "THE BOY MINERS," "SETH JONES," "BILL BIDDON," ETC., ETC., ETC.



“Arrah now, but I never learnt to ride the divil when I was home in the ould country,” replied the Irishman, backing away.

But both Ethan and Baldy united in their persuasions, and finally Mickey consented, although with great trepidation. He timidly climbed upon the wagon and took his seat beside the Yankee, looking very much as a man may be supposed to look who mounts the hearse to attend his own funeral.

“When yer wants to start, jist pull that ‘ere gimcrack!” said Baldy, pointing to the crook in the rod upon which his hand rested.

“Git eout, naow! do you think you’re goin’ to teach me that has teached school fur five years in Connecticut?”

There were some peculiarities about the steam man which made him a rather unwieldy contrivance. He had a way of starting with a jerk, unless great skill was used in letting on steam; and his stoppage was equally sudden, from the same cause.

When the Irishman and Yankee had fairly ensconced themselves on their perch, the latter looked carefully round to make sure that no one was in the way, and then he turned the valve, which let on a full head of steam.

For a second the monster did not stir. The steam had not fairly taken “hold” yet; then he raised one immense spiked foot and held it suspended in air.

“That’s a great contrivance, ain’t it?” exclaimed Ethan, contemptuously.

“Can’t do nothin’ more than lift his foot? Wait till you see more! He’s goin’ to dance and skip like a lamb, or outrun any locomotive you ever sot eyes on!”

“Bad luck to the leikes of yees, why don’t yees go on?” exclaimed the irate Irishman, as he leaned forward and addressed the obdurate machine. “Are yeas tryin’ to fool us, bad luck to yees—”

At this instant, the feet of the steam man, began rising and falling with lightning like rapidity, the wagon being jerked forward with such sudden swiftness, that both Ethan and Mickey turned back summersets, rolling heels over head off the vehicle to the ground while the monster went puffing over the prairie, and at a

terrific rate. Baldy was about to start in pursuit of it, when Johnny, the deformed boy, restrained him.

“It won’t run far; the steam is nearly out.”

“Be jabbers! but me head is caved in!” exclaimed the Irishman, rising to his feet, rubbing his head, and looking at his hand to see whether was blood upon it.

“Jerusalem I thought she had upset or bu’sted her b’iler!” said the Yankee, looking around him with a bewildered air.

The two spectators were laughing furiously, and they could scarcely stand the trick which had been played upon them.

“Let your old machine go to blazes!” muttered Ethan. “If it acts that way, I don’t want nothin’ to do with it.”

In the mean time the steamer had gone rattling over the prairie, until about a quarter of a mile distant, when it rapidly slackened, and as quickly halted.

“What’s the matter wid it now?” asked Mickey; “has it got the cramps and gi’n out?”

“The steam is used up!” replied the dwarf, as he hurried after it; “we can soon start it again!”

All four made all haste toward the stationary figure; but the light frame and superior activity of little Johnny brought him to it considerably in advance of the others. Emptying a lot of wood from the wagon, he was busily engaged in throwing it into his stomach when the other two came up. His eyes sparkled, as he said:

“Jump up there, and I’ll give you all a ride!”

The three clambered up and took their seats with great care, Mickey and Ethan especially clinging as if their life depended on it.

Johnny threw in the fuel until the black smoke poured in a stream from the hat. Before leaving it, he opened two smaller doors, at the knees, which allowed the superfluous cinders and ashes to fall out. The water in the boiler was then examined, and found all right. Johnny mounted in his place, and took charge.

“Now we are ready! hold fast!”

“Begorrah, if I goes I takes the wagon wid me,” replied Mickey, as he closed his teeth and hung on like death.

The engineer managed the monster with rare skill, letting on a full head of steam, and just as it made a move shutting it off, and letting it on almost immediately, and then shutting off and admitting it

again, until it began moving at a moderate pace, which, however, rapidly increased until it was going fully thirty miles an hour.

Nothing could be more pleasant than this ride of a mile over the prairie. The plain was quite level, and despite the extraordinary speed attained, the wagon glided almost as smoothly as if running upon a railroad. Although the air was still, the velocity created a stiff breeze about the ears of the four seated on the top of the wood.

The hight of the steam man's head carried the smoke and cinders clear of those behind, while the wonderful machinery within, worked with a marvelous exactness, such as was a source of continued amazement to all except the little fellow who had himself constructed the extraordinary mechanism. The click of the joints as they obeyed their motive power was scarcely audible, and, when once started, there was no unevenness at all in its progress.

When the party had ridden about a half-mile, Johnny described a large circle, and finally came back to the starting, checking the progress with the same skill that he had started it. He immediately sprung down, examined the fire, and several points of the man when finding everything right, he opened his knee-caps and let cinders and ashes drop out.

"How kin yeou dew that?" inquired Ethan Hopkins, peering over his shoulder.

"What's to hinder?"

"How kin he work his legs, if they're holler that way and let the fire down 'em?"

"They ain't hollow. Don't you see they are very large, and there is plenty of room for the leg-rods, besides leaving a place for the draft and ashes?"

"Wal, I swan, if that ain't rather *queer*. And you made it all out of your head naow?" asked the Yankee, looking at the diminutive inventor before him.

"No. I had to use a good deal of iron," was the reply of the youngster, with a quizzical smile.

"Mean you got up the thing yourself?"

"Yes, sir," was the quiet but proud reply of the boy

"Jingo and Jerusalem! but your daddy must be fond of you!" exclaimed the enthusiastic New Englander, scanning him admiringly from head to foot.

"I haven't any father."

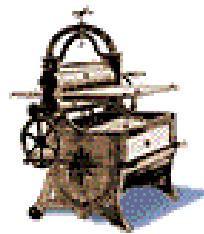
"Your mother then!"

"I don't know about that."

"Say, you, can't yer tell a feller 'bout it?"

"Not now; I haven't time."

As the steam horse was to rest for the present, he was "put up." The engineer opened several cavities in his legs and breast, and different parts of his body, and examined the machinery, carefully oiling the various portions, and when he had completed, he drew a large oil skin from the wagon, which, being spread out, covered both it and the steam man himself.



## ***NEMES Gazette Editorial Schedule***

<u>Issue</u>	<u>closing date for contributions</u>
March '08	February 22, 2008
April '08	March 21, 2008
May '08	April 18, 2008
June '08	May 23, 2008



## ***Treasurer's Report***

Dick Koolish

Balance as of December 19, 2007	8483.57
Bus rental	-3570.00
January Gazette	-223.16
Canadian currency adjustment	-.28
Feb show table rental	-324.81
Deposit slips	-26.32
33 bus fare @ \$135.00	+4455.00
26 memberships	+ 650.00
Balance as of January 20, 2008	9919.00





## Shop Tips

### Free Metalworking Books

Mark Whitis calls this page: "Mark's free (legal) technical e-books links":

<http://www.freelabs.com/~whitis/ebooks/index.xhtml>

It has pointers to download over 100 books related to metalworking that are in the public domain. The "local copy" links don't work, but don't get discouraged. All of the titles shown are available through the main links. Some of Mark's links reference Google books. Others reference the Internet Archive. So you might also want to search at those two sites.

The Internet Archive has >25 more free machining books available by searching for "Machine Tools":

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=machine-tools>

You can also try searching for Metalworking, Machine Shop, or other terms and find a lot more.

Unfortunately, Google books

<http://books.google.com>

points mostly to books for sale. Very few titles are available for free download. My time spent there was much less productive.

In most cases, these books are Acrobat scans, so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free utility to read the books.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Many of these are "old crackers", books from the turn of the century that would make a cracking sound as you opened the stiff bindings. But there are some gems in these archives. All of the books referenced on those two websites are "in the public domain", either because the copyright allows free distribution or because the book is so old that the copyright has expired.

Downloading these books will take a lot of Internet bandwidth. If you don't have a high-speed link available or don't want to take the trouble, let me know and I can distribute a "Greatest Hits" CD collection.

Also, if you particularly like any of these books, please send me a note. I'll make sure that your favorites are included in the CD collection.

Bob Neidorff



## NEMES Show

### Door Prizes for the February Show

We are always looking for ways to make our annual February show better. One of the show's popular aspects is the awarding of door prizes to a number of lucky exhibitors. We have a small list of commercial donors who support the show with door prize contributions. In addition, some NEMES members have also contributed door prize items.

Please take a look around your shop to see if there is an "extra" item that you would be willing to contribute as a door prize. It doesn't have to be new or fancy. If you like it, chances are another NEMES member would like it too. No, this is not an opportunity to get rid of that early 3,000 pound horizontal mill rusting under the tarp in your back yard. However, if you can come up with a clean usable shop item of manageable size and weight, we would be delighted to add it to the list of door prizes. Also, remember that the more donations we get, the better the odds that you will come up with a neat door prize too.

If you have something to donate as a show door prize, I would appreciate it if you would let me know via phone or email before the show so we can be sure to add your name to the Donor List. My contact information is:

Frank Dorion  
23 Black Birch Road  
Plainville, CT 06062  
Tel: (860) 747-2399  
[fdorion@comcast.net](mailto:fdorion@comcast.net)





**For Sale**

**Shaper Work CD**

Put out in 1944 by the New York State education Department this 326 page manual is chock full of valuable tips and information on using the King of Machine tools....The Shaper. Covered is everything you need to know about the care and feeding of the shaper, use of the shaper, even how to sharpen tools for the shaper. Scanned and saved in Adobe Acrobat format. The CD now has a lot more info on it, and the price has increased accordingly. \$10.00, shipping included.

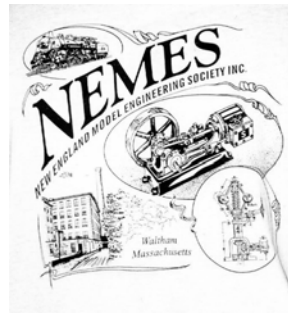
Errol Groff  
180 Middle Road  
Preston, CT 06365 8206  
[errol.groff@snet.net](mailto:errol.groff@snet.net)

**NEMES Shop Apron**



Look your best in the shop! The NEMES shop apron keeps clothes clean while holding essential measuring tools in the front pockets. The custom strap design keeps weight off your neck and easily ties at the side. The apron is washable blue denim with an embroidered NEMES logo on top pocket.

Contact Rollie Gaucher 508-885-2277

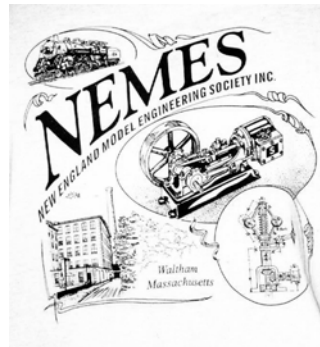


**NEMES clothing**

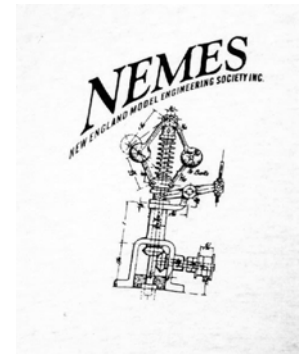
**NEMES Tee Shirts**

NEMES tee shirts and sweat shirts are available in sizes from S to XXXL. The tee shirts are gray, short sleeve shirt, Hanes 50-50. You won't shrink this shirt! The sweat shirts are the same color, but long sleeve and a crew neck. Also 50-50, but these are by Lee. The sweat shirts are very comfortable!

Artwork by Richard Sabol, printed on front and back:



Rear



Front

Prices:

	Tee Shirts	Sweat Shirts
S - L	\$12.00	\$22.00
XXL	\$14.00	\$24.00
XXXL	\$15.00	\$25.00

Add \$5 shipping and handling for the first tee shirt, \$1 for each additional shirt shipped to the same address. Sweat shirts are \$7 for shipping the first, and \$1.50 for each additional sweat shirt.

Profits go to the club treasury.

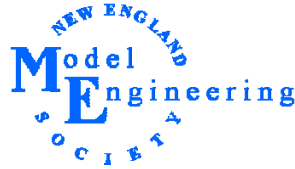
Mike Boucher  
10 May's Field Rd  
Lunenburg, MA 01462-1263  
[mdbouch@hotmail.com](mailto:mdbouch@hotmail.com)



**MARK  
THIS  
DATE**

## **Upcoming Events**

Bill Brackett



## **Membership Renewal Form**

To add an event, please send a brief description, time, place and a contact person to call for further information to Bill Brackett at [thebracketts@verizon.net](mailto:thebracketts@verizon.net) or (508) 393-6290.

*Bill*

Feb 7th Thursday 7PM  
NEMES Monthly club meeting  
Charles River Museum of Industry 781-893-5410  
Waltham, MA  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Winter transportation Festival  
Owls Head Transportation Museum Owls ME  
<http://www.ohtm.org/>

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual NEMES Show  
Charles River Museum of Industry  
Waltham, MA  
781-893-5410  
<http://www.neme-s.org>

Feb 28th– March 1st FIRST Robotics  
Competition  
Verizon Wireless Area  
555 Elm Street  
Manchester, NH  
<http://www.baesystemsfirst.org/regional/when.htm>

**Renew your NEMES membership for the calendar year 2008. Enclose a check for \$25 payable to: NEMES**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bring this form to the next meeting or mail to:**

**Richard Koolish  
212 Park Ave.  
Arlington MA 02476**

*(If bringing cash, place in an envelope with your name and address on outside)*