

The NEMES Gazette

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*The Newsletter of the New England Model Engineering Society,
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From the Editor's Desk:

At the December meeting we all had very nice name tags thanks to George Lagasse, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for making them. It's nice to be able to know who your talking to a a meeting without having to ask.

Sometimes in life we take things for granted, and it can lead to complications. One of those things is the address of the Museum, which I have so far never actually put into the Gazette. This oversight on my part lead to one of the high points of my month, I got a call from Bob Washburn, editor of Strictly IC magazine. He was preparing the issue that you will be receiving (if you don't subscribe and you enjoy getting magazines about model engineering stuff you should) a week or two before the big show in February and needed the address of the Charles River Museum of Industry. So, here it is 154 Moody Street, Waltham, Ma 02154, telephone 617-893-5410. I'll try to remember to put the address in the calendar section from now on. I wish every time I did something dumb like assume everybody knows where the Museum is I got as nice a surprise out of it as I did this time.

There are quite a few things going on in NEMES right now. Max has organized the first group buy. The show is coming up in February - don't forget to sign up to help get things ready if you can, and especially don't forget to sign up for your exhibit space. We've got a lot of great stuff out there, so get your registration form to Max before he sells out all the space. And the bus trip to the NAMES show is in the works. All of these are covered in more detail elsewhere.

If your enjoying NEMES and feel like helping out, let Ron know. We're doing pretty well, but really need a few more folks to get organized to the point where NEMES can really take off and be a viable long term society. If you want to help out, don't be shy, say something!

I've got to apologize for the somewhat reduced size of the newsletter this month, but the Holidays have cut into the schedule and there just hasn't been time to get a couple of good items in that I'll have to save for later.

See you all next Thursday night. -- scl

The Founders Corner by Ron Ginger

FEBRUARY SHOW

I was a bit discouraged to see the small number of hands raised when we asked about exhibiting at the show. I really hope everyone brings something to exhibit. This is really meant to be an all-day get acquainted session, and I'd like to see something from everyone. It doesnt have to be a finished model, works-in-progress are very welcome. Also welcome are tools, fixtures, anything made of metal.

Please bring along the registration forms for the next meeting, or mail them to Max ben-Aron. We will need a reasonably accurate count so we can rent the tables.

BUS TOUR TO NAMES

I was surprised at the interest in this trip, but very pleasantly so. I think it could be a very good trip, and I think the bus full of machinists would lead to some interesting conversations!

For a short summary, in case you missed the meeting, I propose a trip to Detroit on April 24-27, 1997 to attend the North American Model Engineering show. Ive been to this show for the last 7 years and it is a tremendous event. If you havent heard about it look for a copy of HOME SHOP MACHINIST magazine in the past year or 2, about the May or June issue. They have done a good article with pictures after each of the shows.

The basic plan is as follows:

We will charter a big, over the road motor coach, seating 47 maximum. This is a fully air conditioned bus, with a rest room, video screens and all the comforts. We will have 2 drivers with us for the entire trip.

The bus will leave about 7AM on April 24. We will stop in Hamilton Ontario to see the Museum of Industry and their big beam pumping engine. We should get to Detroit about 8PM.

On Friday morning the bus will take us to the show to unload our exhibits. You may stay at the show all day (its setup day and only exhibitors are admitted) or you can take the bus over to the Henry Ford Museum. This museum is an amazing place, with such exhibits as the largest locomotive ever built, hundreds of cars, some airplanes, lots of stationary engines, etc, all under one roof.

On Saturday and Sunday the bus will take us from the hotels to the show and back. Sunday about 5PM we will load up and head East, with our 2 drivers doing the all-nighter, while we sleep. We should be back home by about 7AM Monday.

The total bus cost for this trip is \$5200. If we fill all 47 seats its less than \$111 each. If we get 30 people, it would be about \$175 each. There are several hotels that offer special show rates of from \$40 to \$60 per night. Your total cost for the trip should be just about \$300.

The hard part of all this is going to be the arrangements and money handling. We will have to pay the bus company up front, and I sure cant bankroll this one!. The only way I see to handle it is to assume we will go with 30 people and \$175 each. We will start taking reservations, with checks at the February meting. If we get over 30 checks, we go. If we get a few more we will divide up the total cost, and everyone will get refunds. If we dont get the minimum 30 by the March meeting we will cancel the trip and give back the money.

I guess we will have to handle this like one of those special air-fare deals- non-refundable, non-cancelable. If you make a reservation and change your mind later, you will have to

arrange to sell your reservation, we cant make a refund and then have to ask everyone else to pay more.

Everyone can make their own hotel reservations, Ill have copies of the NAMES show flyer by the January meeting with the hotel list. If some of you want to double up and share rooms you can probably save a few dollars on hotel costs.

Well, thats the great Bus Tour story! I hope it works.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Kay (submarine) Fisher has voluteered to be the editor of the members biography list. The idea is simple. if you want to find out about the background and experience of the rest of the members, you write up a short, maybe 1 page, biography of yourself. Tell us about your interests, what kind of shop you have, anything you think others would like to know. Kay will assemble all of these into one document and arrange for the printing. The only way to get a copy will be submit your own page. It would be best if you have access to e-mail to send these to Kay electronically, so he can assemble them all without having to re-type everything. At the next meeting Kay will have details on how to get the information to him, and a date for the final cutoff and printing.

SHOW AND TELL

Last meeting was just a little short on the show and tell items. Come on guys, everyone tells me they really love this part of the meeting, but we need SHOWER's as well as listeners! So collect up some project, or pieces of one, or your latest tool for gadget and bring them to the next meeting.

JANUARY MEETING

The second part of the January meeting (after SHOW and Tell) will be discussion of milling operations and fly cutting. Tips, tools, techniques, whatever. Please share your experience with the rest of the group.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The long awaited Loctite Program! I have contacted the local Sales Engineer for Loctite, and he can come for the February meeting. He will give a short presentaiton on the products and their proper use, and answer questions.

Well, thats long enough for this newsletter. Hope this reaches you in time for a Happy Holiday wish. See you all in January!

-- Ron Ginger

Calendar of Events

Thursday January 2, 1997 -- NEMES MEETING at the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham, Ma 02154, telephone 617-893-5410

Thursday February 6, 1997 -- NEMES MEETING at the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham, Ma 02154, telephone 617-893-5410

Saturday, February 15, 1997 -- New England Model Engineering Show at the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham, Ma 02154, telephone 617-893-5410

Thursday March 6, 1997 -- NEMES MEETING at the Charles River Museum of Industry, 154 Moody Street, Waltham, Ma 02154, telephone 617-893-5410

Group purchase of free-machining steel.

High their:

I am focussing on getting a single purchase distributed before going off on any tangents, so I have concentrated on the basic 18" lengths of 5/16", 1/2", 3/4" and 1" round and 9" lengths of 1 1/2" round 12L14 free machining steel. We have 40 takers for the 18" bundle and 27 for the 1 1/2" round. You know who you are, so I will not burden the Gazette with the list.

The steel supplier is out of 1" round so I have taken 1 1/8" instead. The price will go up slightly as a result, to \$8 and \$5 respectively. I am trying to organize the purchase so that purchasers can pick their material up at the January meeting.

Art Corman has graciously agreed to cut the steel up for us. To fit in with his holiday schedule I have decided to go out on a limb and order the steel right away, before collecting any cash. It will, I hope, be delivered tomorrow (Thursday 19th December), to my house and Art will pick it up and try to get it cut in time for the meeting.

I am trusting you all by floating a loan on my credit card, so I would appreciate it very much if purchasers would bring cash or checks to the meeting, where the material will be distributed. The price is \$8 per bundle of 18" lengths of the small stuff and \$5 per 9" length of 1 1/2 round.

If you are not coming to the meeting, (or even if you are but would like to make the administration easier by prepaying) please mail a check to me:

Max ben-Aaron, 61 South Road, Bedford, MA 01730. If we can make this work, we can go forward and make other group purchases, so please co-operate. Thanks in advance.

Max ben-Aaron

P.S. Herbert Cotterly & Dick Boucher are the only members who have reserved table space for the forthcoming February show, so far. I am breathlessly waiting to be inundated with requests (and checks for \$5 per space), but, no joy to date. Hint, hint.

High their:

Hope it is not too late for late-breaking news:

The steel company sent the wrong stuff for the 1 1/2" naterial. They sent 1018, which, as far as I know is not free-machining, so I sent it back. The smaller sizes 5/16, 1/2, 3/4 & 1 1/8 free-machining steel is here, at \$8 per 18" bundle. Because of possible complications in cutting by Art, I will hold off re-ordering till after the January meeting, when we can decide what else we want.

Mb-A

If you can't make the meeting to pick up your steel, please send your payment along to Max so he doesn't get stuck with a big bill on his credit card. -- scl

The Meeting, December 5, 1996

We arrived at the Museum to discover that the Museum had had a party prior to our arrival and that there was left over food that we were welcome to enjoy. It also meant that we could hold our meeting in the larger room where the Show will be held in February.

Things got under way with some words from Ron Ginger. We need a logo, and we've had a couple of proposals from people. Next meeting we'll vote Sherline Style to chose one. Each candidate will have a jar in front of it and the one that gets the most 1/4-20 nuts will be the winner.

There was a show committee meeting at the Roy Rogers on 128 by Rt 2 We can get Rental tables for \$6.00 each delivered. There's a \$5.00 registration fee to cover the costs. Max ben-Aron will be taking registrations in advance on a first come first served basis and will make sure that we don't overbook. Everyone will get four feet of table space, if you will need more let Max know. We are not encouraging flea market activities, but neither are we encouraging them. Remember that the access to the room is somewhat limited. We'll wait and see what happens. We need to have a show manager and 4-5 guys who come early and help set up. We need to do more than just hope somebody shows up to help set up, so there will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting.

A bus tour to the NAMES show in Detroit was proposed by Ron, with a rather enthusiastic show of hands when he asked who might like to go on it. Ron has more details in his column and will have a flyer to hand out at the meeting.

The museum has some surplus steel we need to organize a party to cut it up and share it.

Don Strang had a drill sharpener that he'd missed at the drill sharpening meeting. It was for sharpening 4 facet points. First it puts on a pair of 10 degree facets. then a pair of 25 degree facets. You end up with a point on the drill so it's self starting, but it's still a chisel point so it's not as good as a split point drill. It was from Model Engineer, where it was first published in 1994. Recently, in 1996, an update of it was done that has some improvements allowing it to cover a larger range of drills since the original was for very small drills only. Don says that it is better than the wishbone sharpener since it gives positive control of the facet angles. The article in ME recommends special diamond laps for the sharpener but Don says that there's no reason you can't use a plain oil stone. Pull the drill to sharpen rather than pushing to minimize grooving the stone.

Dick Boucher showed his Sherline 4-jaw chuck. His Monarch 10-EE weighs 3000 lbs and has an appropriately sized chuck. It also takes 5-C collets. The Sherline 4-jaw is mounted on a 5-C base. He got it for \$129 from an MSC sale flyer and recommends it highly.

Max ben-Aaron put together a proposal for a group buy of some leadloy steel. Unfortunately he was under the weather and didn't want to infect the rest of us so he wasn't at the meeting. Ed Kingsley did a good job explaining it to us and passed around a sheet for folks to sign on for the buy. There's a report on what's happening with it from Max elsewhere in this issue.

Ed Kingsley had a working Darex Drill Dr this time - it came the day after the last meeting when he showed us the dead one. Nobody had remembered to bring a drill to get sharpened, but fortunately there was a drill in the demo that Don Strang had brought. The drill doctor put a good looking point on the drill, wiping out the very nice looking 4-facet point from Don's Quorn. Then it went back into the Drill Dr to get a split point. Ed has done about 30 drills in it so far, and says that

the diamond wheel started doing a smoother job after about 20 drills just like they said it would. Getting the drill into the collet correctly is very important. It works best with drills in the 1/4 to 3/8 range. Small drills in the 1/8 to 3/32 range sharpen very fast, you almost can't notice the change in the sound indicating that the drill is done.

Once Ed had demonstrated the Drill Dr the inevitable question came up. Now that he's had it for a couple of weeks, would he buy it if he had it to do over? He said for the money it works pretty well, although it's not perfect, and he doesn't need a drill sharpen just now because all his drills are nice and sharp. Henry Szostek asked why anybody would want to buy it when for the same money you could get three complete sets of letter, number, fractional drills from an MSC sale. Somebody countered that by saying that the last time they bought a set of cheap chinese drills the brand new ones needed sharpening badly.

A final comment from Ed was on the prices for aluminum plate at the Admiral Metals Thursday afternoon sale. It's \$2.00 a pound as long as one dimension is under two feet. So, a piece 23 1/2 inches by 8 feet goes for \$2, but a piece 24 by 24 inches would be at the higher rate. Still a good deal though, and you know what alloy it is.

The second half of the meeting started off with Dave Robie, who passed around a PM Research globe valve kit. Dave is a PM dealer.

Dick Cushing had a copy of American Heritage Invention and Technology. It was originally funded by GM, but is now available for \$15 a year. The issue he had had a story about George Westinghouse and the air brake. He has subscription info if anyone is interested.

Ron brought his boiler back for this meeting. He now has all the soldering done, and has concluded that the rust film he talked about last time and had blamed on his sulfuric acid pickling bath is due to burning propane. When you burn propane you get carbon dioxide, and water, lots and lots of water. It condensed out on everything, and you get rust. Ron now recommends not soldering around your good steel machinery. People were asking about getting silver solder in sheet form, and someone mentioned that Middlesex welding has Easyflow solder in strips 1 inch wide. Be careful though, it has cadmium in it and cadmium fumes are not conducive to good health.

Starting out the "Small" theme for the evening was Ron Ginger, with his Sherline lathe. Four or five years ago, Ron had to go to Carolina for a four or five week course. He figured that was too long to sit in a motel room with nothing to do, so he bought a Unimat. He had a great time, and thinks the Unimat is a great machine, but it was gutless. He saw the Sherline, and being a take charge kind of a guy (after all, he did found NEMES when he figured we ought to have a model engineering society here in New England) he became a Sherline Dealer and now had both the lathe and the milling machine. He brought his lathe in, nicely packaged in a briefcase sized crate. He had it set up and ready to go in just a couple of minutes from opening the box. It looked like a real machine and he says that it's great for making anything that fits into it and is a powerful machine that will take a real cut, even on steel.

Base price is about \$425 for a lathe and chucks. Ron can get you a good deal on one.

Mike Boucher brought in a double acting oscillator with a propeller, built to an Elmer Verberg design from the book "Elmer's Engines." His second engine was single acting, 3/16 by 3/16 with 11 parts. It took about a day to make, but he'd had practice because the first one disappeared when he passed it around at a meeting. This one he didn't pass around. Mike was asked if "Elmer's Engines" was worth \$41. He said it's a neat book.

Dick Boucher brought in some accessories to go with the drill press he showed us a few months back. There was a drill with a taper shank to fit the drill press, a pair of calipers, a hacksaw, file, and work light. None of them was much more than an inch long. The hacksaw even had real teeth - the blade was cut from a jewelers saw blade. Dick showed us how he machines such small parts. He uses a "big" block to go into the vice, then machines the part projecting out, cuts it off, and uses buttons to file the correct radii on the cut ends.

Dave Piper brought in a plain dividing head that he had made from the remains of an old Sherline lathe. It was simple but effective. He also had a crankshaft with a gear on the end that he had cut using the dividing head.

About the final item was Henry Szostek conducting an informal poll. He wanted to know if anyone had ever made their living by cutting metal. Quite a few had. A bunch were making their living now by cutting metal. Then he asked if anyone had ever made anything that had gone into a spaceship, and a few had even done that. Henry's conclusion was that NEMES can say that yes, some of its members are Rocket Scientists.

Classified Ads

SHERLINE products.

I am a dealer for the entire line of SHERLINE products, lathes, milling machines and all the accessories. I will sell these items to club members at a 20% discount off list price. If you are interested call me in the evening at 508/877-8217. - Ron Ginger

FREE MOTOR

This motor is a compact, one horsepower, 220v three phase unit that may be a suitable idler for a small one to three phase converter. I will have it in the car at the January meeting if anyone would like to give it a good home. --Larry Twaits

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