



SCHSM

Southern California Home Shop Machinists

February 5, 2021

OFFICERS

President	Doug Walker
Vice President	John Miller
Secretary	Ron Gerlach
Treasurer	Jim Endsley

COMING EVENTS

March 6 Virtual Meeting
Sat, 6 March 2021, 2:00p.m.
via Zoom

PREFACE -

The virtual February meeting of the Southern California Home Shop Machinists was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2021. We met in the cloud from our individual homes via Zoom. There were 31 members in attendance.

CLUB BUSINESS –

Doug conducted a couple of brief club business matters and then immediately segued into the session with the notable Youtube personality, Keith Rucker. Mr. Rucker was invited by Don Huseman to be a guest speaker at our meeting. He stated that he did not have a presentation prepared; partially because he was currently displaced from his home due to a death in the family. The unplanned travel to the funeral coincided with the club meeting. He simply threw open the door to a Q&A session which moved along rapidly and consumed almost 2 hours before anyone realized it. He started his Youtube videos about 8 years ago after people had asked him how he did some of his restorations at the museum (Georgia Museum of Agriculture in Tifton Ga.) He had been watching Keith Fenner videos for about a year and was inspired to do something similar.

He has full time job as a Scientist with an Agriculture Research Firm which keeps him plenty busy for 40+ hours a week. In between work he manages to fit in the considerable amount of time required to create his Youtube videos (I counted 710 videos on his Youtube Chanel).

Initially his big machine tools were located at the museum, where he has been a volunteer for almost 30 years. So, many of his early videos were shot at the museum. This changed about 5 years ago when he got his own shop built on his property and he was able to bring his big machines home. He still goes back to the museum on occasion to use some of the tools that he does not have at home. For those interested in what it takes to put together a typical video on Youtube he referred people to go watch Steve Barton of Solid Rock Machine Works. He has an excellent video that explores all the steps and work involved. He estimated that everything takes at least 2X time to accomplish when it



is videoed for publication.

His Youtube Channel is called VintageMachinery.org which is due to the fact that he was instrumental in the formation of the Vintage Machinery.org web site that archives manuals, photos, catalogs etc. for thousands of old woodworking and metalworking machine tools. This was started about 20 years ago and thus predates the Youtube activity. The web site also features some items for sale. Currently it lists his 9" straight edge casting and will eventually feature longer straight edges. He developed these after seeing how expensive it was to find available straight edges on eBay.

Don asked him a question about using an autocollimator on smaller granite surface plates. Keith mentioned that a Repeat-O-Meter would be the best option since it is designed to detect localized flatness.

When asked about the stoker engine he talked about the fact that it is still at Adam Booth's shop and that he was unable to use his big shaper on the casting, so they need to resort to a conventional milling type of operation to get down inside the deep casting and clean up the various surfaces. They are going to meet up at a friend's shop in Denton Fla with the casting because this guy has a monster horizontal mill with a big vertical head that is big enough to get the job done.

When asked about Knight Foundry, he initially did not recall if he had ever visited it, but once Don described the layout and activities, Keith recalled that he had been there, but it was during his youth when the family lived in Placerville. At the time he had no clues of the path his interests and career would take him.

Just to summarize a few more of the incidental comments made during the discussion:

1. There was discussion about the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn Michigan.
2. He planned his home shop for about 20 years and finally built it about 5 years ago but wished he had taken the time to build it much sooner.
3. He was aware of Boggs File repair and has used them repeatedly over the years.
4. His Cast Iron castings are done at Cattail Foundry in Gordonville, Pa
5. He mentioned that the Amish can use machinery as long as it is not driven by electric motors
6. Out of habit, he always wears an apron

Don left Keith with a request/challenge for Keith and several other well-known Youtubers to gather at the American Precision Museum in Windsor Vt and to capture their collective commentary and the various exhibits on display.

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ELECTION RESULTS

The yearly elections were held for club officers. No one was especially inclined to step forward and expose themselves to the potential horror of actually getting elected to a club position. Doug agreed to carry on as the president for another year, as did John as VP and Jim as Treasurer. The only exception was that Fred Bertsche agreed to relieve Ron Gerlach of his duties as Secretary and the corresponding responsibilities for the monthly creation of the Newsletter.

SHOW and TELL

Matt Rulla showed some resharpened solid carbide endmills that he obtained from CGTool for just \$10.00 each. He was very pleased with the quality of the end mills. At that price it is hardly worth the effort to sharpen your own even if you have the capability. The company can be reached at www.cgtools.com.

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Frank Schettini showed a unique screwdriver tip with what was termed a Clutch Head screwdriver tip. An image of a Clutch Head screw head is shown below.



Frank also showed his Ammco shaper which he has had for a while but is just now getting around to setting up to use. He thought it was the same as an Atlas shaper but several members chimed in to say that it was similar and about the same size but was not in-fact the same as or made by Atlas.





Wil Heitritter showed a variety of items that he has been working on in the recent past. These were: a Sensitive Tapping Machine, rubber mats to line his tool boxes, getting his son involved in metal working, a Pantagraph and a dental spot welder. The Hamilton Sensitive Tapping Machine was a circa 1960 device that automated the tapping process by providing a means of fine control of forward and reverse torque applied to a tap. He

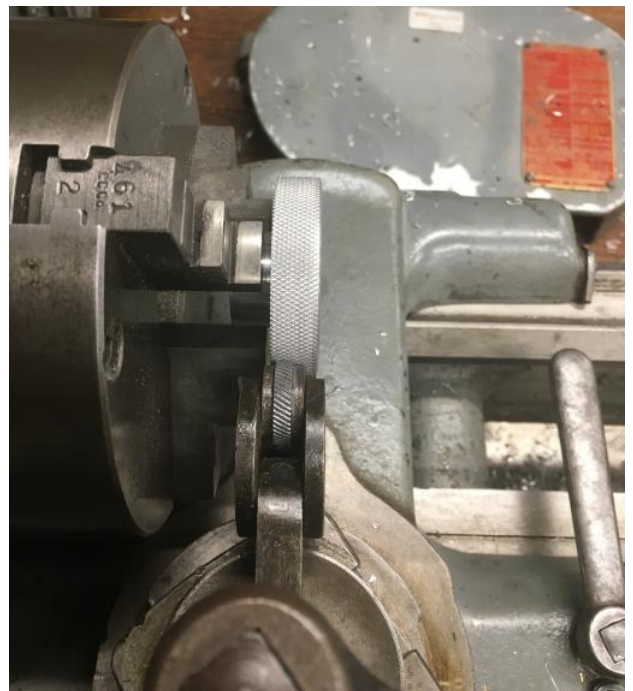
lifted platform. Contact with the work piece moves the vertical shaft up and the bottom cone contacts the rubber drive cone. This applies right hand torque. Dropping the work down pulls the vertical shaft down which makes the upper cone contact the rubber drive cone which then applies left hand torque and backs the tap out.



He did have to make a new knurled knob that mounts on the top of the machine to turn the shaft that adjusts belt tension. His knurl came out nice.



found this tool back East somewhere and had it shipped out here. It was functional with fairly minimal work. Note the rubber drive cone located between two hubs on the vertical shaft. The work is moved up from below with the arm





He showed a video of the tool tapping the aluminum knob. It was having a hard time developing much torque, but it did work. The slippage was no doubt due to the condition of the rubber traction cone wheel and the fact that he was not applying much force. This will be a good tool to have.

Next up from Wil was the installation of some corrugated rubber matting in his toolboxes. He



showed some before and after shots of the various trays and drawers. The rubber greatly reduced the amount of sliding around when drawers were opened and closed. They looked very professional as well.



He followed this with some pictures of his 9-year-old son working on his South Bend lathe. He was



making a brass spyglass which came out pretty nice.

It is good to get him exposed at an early age. Maybe we were looking at a future young club member.



Wil's Pantograph was featured in a couple of the images and was also used to add some nice writing on the side of the little spyglass.

The next project Wil showed, indicates that he knows how the system works. His wife needed some way of storing the beaters from her Kitchenaid mixer. So, Wil made a couple of brackets that replicated the Kitchenaid mounting interface.



These then were screwed to the underside of some cubbard or cabinet and the two beaters just snapped into place.



Last up for Wil was his little Dental Spot Welder. It looked to be something from the 1950's. It was used to spot weld and heat treat various metal wires used in orthodontic work.



To demonstrate that it was still a functional piece of equipment, he spot welded together a tiny dust pan to match the old full scale one he had laying around. Check out the little part laying on top of the real thing. Nice demo and a nice bit of craftsmanship.



Bill Heather noted that he had a friend who was selling a complete Sherline lathe and mill setup for \$900. It was not CNC but still appeared to be a good deal.

Bill also showed a hub he milled at work from solid billet 7075 aluminum for mounting a motor to dynamometer for testing. It had to support the motor, mechanically interface to the dynamo and provide a channel for routing the power cables. It looked like a challenging job but well executed.

Bill then showed an articulating arm he adapted to his mill to hold his DRO. He noted that he had several more of these and that they could be had by any club members that wanted them. They were spoken for quite quickly. Thank you, Bill.

SCHSM welcomes presentations by members or guest speakers on any subject related to metal working activities. If you have some knowledge or experience you feel may be of interest to our members, or if you know someone that may have something interesting to relate, please consider making a presentation at a meeting. Presentations may be a little longer and more detailed than a show and tell, and may be accompanied by slides, video, or physical displays. Probably every member has some experience they can share, and this is the purpose of SCHSM. Please contact President Doug Walker to make arrangements to give a presentation.

SCHSM met in Classroom AJ115 on the first floor of the Industry and Technology building of El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, California, at 2:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month until March of last year. Meetings are now held via Zoom. This will continue until at least June of this year.

If you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter, or make a comment, contact the editor, Ron Gerlach. He can be reached via the SCHSM Groups.io Group, or at r7734g@hotmail.com.

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