



# SCHSM

Newsletter of  
Southern California Home ShopMachinists  
February 1, 2014

**The meeting started off with a surprise.** A number of early birds got to see a sunspot, thanks to a welder's lens #9 and John Miller. My first time -- thanks, John!

We had one new guy, Gary Knox, who found us while checking our Website. Thanks, Graham, for keeping up that effort.

Doug Walker, of SCHSM sign fame (thanks, Doug!), showed four volumes of Ingenious Mechanisms, a series of fascinating looking books. He won't sell up, but he is willing to loan them out. [Doug@SpidellSpecialties.com](mailto:Doug@SpidellSpecialties.com). Thanks for that too, Doug.

As a reaction to that, questions were raised about our library. Although our volunteer librarian (thanks, Ray) doesn't attend that many meetings, Ray DeCuir is willing to dig out and copy articles we request . . . if we don't overdo it. [rayfer@earthlink.net](mailto:rayfer@earthlink.net).



Pursuant to a question raised last meeting, Dan Snyder gave us a rundown on the fiscal effects of our annual picnic. We have spent more than we took in a few years in a row, but last year we actually got into the black. And our treasury stands at \$952, only about \$200 down from three years ago.

That topic made us hungry, so Willie Jordan brought info on a possible different menu for our upcoming day in Alondra: pizza on the spot. To be considered.

## Elections

We held our annual elections and once again, for the four positions, we have a whole four members willing to do something. Luckily, they're a capable bunch. Elected were:

*President: Frank Kozlowski*

*Vice-president: Charlie Angelis*

*Secretary: Ken Rector*

*Treasurer: Jim Endsley*

Looking into the future, Ed Hofmann, our El Camino benefactor, said there is at least a chance we can meet already in the fall in the new old building (where we used to be). The machines, etc. won't necessarily be all set up yet, but we might luck into long tables and regular chairs again. A relief, for anyone over age 45, and especially for those who no longer have their high-school figures . . .



## Show & Tell

Norm Wells was first up, with another tap drill formula. Use this or Don's to get an accurate idea of which drill bit to use for any job.

$$D - P = TD$$

And while on the subject, he talked about various tapping compounds. "Most of them work" was the result of one long test he conducted. But he specifically recommends Door-Ease (beeswax compound) or Tap-Ease (ditto). Or yellow mustard, of course. Norm also showed a container for truly big jobs, or a long career at the machines!



Larry McDavid returned after battling down a cold and missing our last meeting. He even saved goodies he was going to show last time.

First he announced eight (8! count 'em!) different shows at the Anaheim Convention Center at the same time: February 11-13. He also announced this on Yahoo. True good news: there is free parking at Anaheim stadium and a free shuttle over



to the convention center. Great deal. But there's little metal machining dealt with there, though lots of other interesting things.

Larry passed around Mt. Saint Helen's Bear Poop in a suspicious-looking black bag.

He also showed a kid's (or adult's) toy with three solids of constant diameter -- though looking more like a rotund Mazda piston -- that keep two flat surfaces strictly parallel while they're moved in circles. Not what you'd expect to see.

Larry also shared one of his eBay scores, a TadData sliding calculator (which he swears by) with all engineering truths gathered in one place. Normally very expensive -- if you can find one. -- Larry let it go for a mere \$10! Graham Hollis won it. Rumor has it you can get your own for \$17 plus shipping: [http://www.engineersedge.com/catalog/product\\_info.php/products\\_id/34](http://www.engineersedge.com/catalog/product_info.php/products_id/34).

The big finish was showing two cotton-phenolic "flexi-wrenches" he made to fit, very accurately, a turning center of Nikon microscope lenses. They look easy enough. But try to make one.



Welcome back, Larry.



Ken Rector showed how happy he was with a recent auction win at SCHSM. He explains: "This is a lathe dog I made along time ago. It shows some practice grinding using the Delta surface grinder donated to the club by Dr. Jim Kreter, that I won in the January auction. I was puzzled by the black stripes. They turned out to be residual mill scale. I passed it around just to show it off and to tell the others how happy I was to have the tool."

Brian Tilley, probably sharing the genes of Colin Chapman or Adrian Newey, came up with a possible replacement for our bottle rocket contests of yore. A near cousin, too! He showed a bottle-rocket *race car* that is easily built, and could race in time or distance contests. On level ground.



Brian, would you write up suggested specs for this thing? Even I could build one of those!

Lewis Sullivan brought the biggest item. He cobbled up a bunch of unused stuff from his workroom and put together a third arm for welding (not to confused with a third hand for soldering). It uses a Panavise head, a ball joint for a wall-mounted stereo speaker and some other stuff, and is flexible, strong and reminiscent of a deadly ray gun from War of the Worlds.



Keen.

He also shared a great source for truly good rubber bands: bicycle (etc) inner tubes. Cut strips off various size inner tubes depending on the widths you need, or slice the long way for ties that really hold well. The price is right too.

Lewis also waved -- but never let go of -- a slick chart of drills, taps, and on and on, free from IMS.



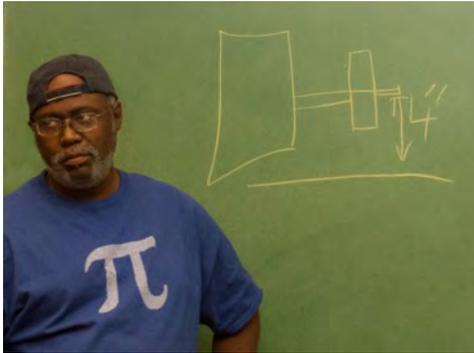
Charlie Angelis announced a surprisingly good deal he got on a machinist's calculator. \$69 and it does everything but make coffee. And it looks impervious to much of what we do to tools.

Don Huseman asked for suggestions on shortening one oar (from 8 to a mere 7-1/2 feet); he wants to repeat the grip portion, so can't just use a hacksaw. Holding this in a lathe, even with a chuck on the "wrong" end, is going to be a great trick. Don -- take pictures if you get it to work.

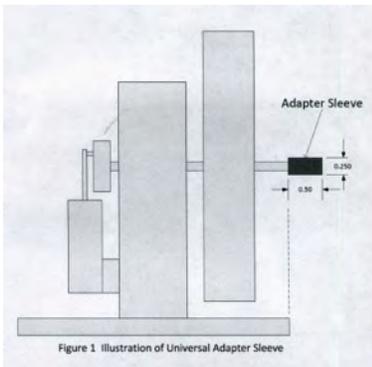
Lorry Widger dragged in a beautiful Mitutoyo X-Y table he intended to put on a rotary table, a great buy until he learned the leadscrew had given up the ghost. He got his money back, so was willing to give it to anyone in the club willing to put in the time, effort and money to get it up and running.

While trying to get the machine apart to analyze it, Lorry discovered that Brownell's gunsmithing shop has excellent sets of thin-bit screwdrivers. Pricey, but good

Richard Albers brought in a bunch of computer power switching gear and donated it. Didn't last long in this crowd.



Willie, a member of the Picnic Air Engine committee (brought into life by Mike Jacob, and fleshed out by Ray Hill, Ron Gerlach, Jim Endsley and Willie) laid out the rules and regulations the committee came up with, and despite half a dozen "suggestions" of how to "improve" the idea, they pretty much stayed carved in stone. Go to our Yahoo group to find out the details, and make a case for your own modifications of the guidelines. A sketch is in this newsletter. Go forth and create!



Lewis came back with one more item. A great marking pen -- for concrete, steel and on and on -- is a white-out pen. Made for correcting errors on a typed (!) page. A drywall screw helps keep the ink flowing after it's blocked by concrete or pocket dust.

And Lorry showed a problem he's tussling with: a rocker beam, 3/16 x 3" for an engine. It needs the two ends to be doughnuts, and how exactly to sling this up on mill and lathe was Lorry's question.

