

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

“All Bridgewire members will be receiving a survey in the near future. This survey will be regarding their use of, and desires from Bridgewire. The feedback gathered will be used in determining the future direction of our organization. It is very important that all members take the time to give us their input as we have some big decisions to make” - Dan Bryant

UPDATES FROM BOARD MEETINGS

The Board had a meeting on April 18th to continue discussions on our long term strategy, including development of grant applications and non-profit fundraising initiatives to continue evolving our community and space to fulfill our goals. A couple of adjustments to programs were approved.

Revised Policy - Fee for Safety and Use Classes

Most members have completed hands-on safety and use classes for our shops. Effective June 1st 2023 a nominal charge will apply to these shop classes (Wood Shop, Machine Shop, Hot Metal Shop 101). We are trying to manage issues related to no-shows and last minute cancellations that generate waste of instructor time and expenses to Bridgewire. The charge will be \$7.50 per scheduled hour of instruction. Class sign-ups will be in the new membership platform, which allows self-management and cancellations, with cancellations allowed up to 24 hours before the class. Instructors are flexible and can be contacted via phone or email to work with you on alternative dates and times. The fee for other classes is not changing.

NEW MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

Bridgewire is now using a web platform to manage scheduling and payment for our events, and payment for new memberships. The web platform is called MembershipWorks and offers other powerful functionality related to management of the member roster, mailing list and financial information. We will also be able to create Member-only pages on our website. **Let us know if you are interested in any feature useful to you !**

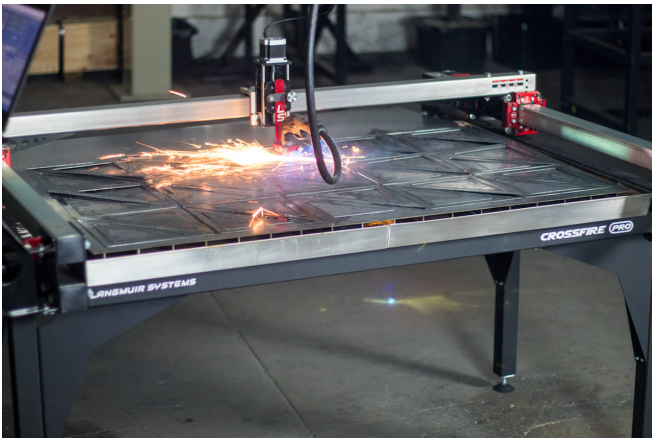
All new members are automatically onboarded in the new platform and receive a login email and password to manage their contact information and membership subscription.

Members enrolled before April 2023 will be onboarded in the coming months to allow contact information updates.

FACILITIES UPDATES

New CNC Plasma Cutter – Following approval of the plasma cutter implementation in the November Board Meeting a new plasma cutting system was acquired and set-up in the shop in March.

The system consists of a new Langmuir Crossfire Pro obtained through an anonymous donation, and a new Hyperthem Powermax45 XP power source bought using Bridgewire funds.



The Langmuir Crossfire Pro provides a 48.25" x 33.3" cutting area with water table, powered Z-axis with Initial Height Sense, reinforced steel frame w/ integrated stainless water table, and Torch Height Control. Instruction in the use will be provided through our revamped Hot Metal Shop 102 class, check the website or contact Matias for information: matias.creates@gmail.com.

The Langmuir website provides a wealth of information on CAD/CAM and use of the machine that is highly recommended prior to immersion into any CNC cutting project, check this resource at:

<https://www.langmuirsystems.com/introduction>



The new power source for the system is a Hypertherm Powermax45 XP, a very well rated lightweight system, with a capability to cut up to 5/8" of steel.

Please check the following link for additional information on this capable machine:

<https://www.hypertherm.com/en-US/hypertherm/powermax/powermax45-xp/>

All use should be coordinated with the "power users" until sufficient familiarity is gained.

Some common sense limitations apply on commercial production runs (about more than 5 to 10 items of the same cut file intended for sale - but ask the Facilities Officer).

New Cutting Fees Apply (cover consumables and power), check shop door.

EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

New Magazine Subscriptions Available

Several magazine subscriptions are being made available to our members for reading in the common space through a donation - **check the new Magazine Rack at the Front Counter for current issues.**

Make Magazine

<https://makezine.com/>





Hackspace Magazine

<https://hackspace.raspberrypi.com/>



Home Shop Machinist

<https://homeshopmachinist.net/>



Digital Machinist

<https://digitalmachinist.net/>

Bridgewire Classes and Workshops

We are always looking for members to create and teach classes of their own. All Bridgewire classes will charge a fee of \$15 per hour of instruction per student. If a materials fee is required it can be added to the total cost. The instructor will receive 50% of the class fee from Bridgewire. The class must be listed on our calendar no less than 30 days before the class. The instructor determines class length in hour increments and the min and max number of students required. Talk to Board Members or any Officer to get started.

FEATURED PROJECTS AND MEMBERS

We'd like to feature your Projects in the newsletter a few times per year.

If you have a project you are working on or thinking about starting, let's feature it here (or our Boards at the Shop) so people know what you are doing or what you will be doing, maybe someone is thinking of doing a similar project!

Contact the newsletter editor: wbridgewire@gmail.com or text - 775-686-0584

BRIDGEWIRE CALENDAR

Please use the calendar to see all classes and events we have currently scheduled.

All events now have a ticketing system and integrated payments using Paypal (debit and credit cards accepted without Paypal account).