

Dick Trouth, President
Joe Comeaux, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Chuck Middleton

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Jeff Cormier: 582-3278; George Kuffel: 478-2707; John Marcon: 478-0646; Chuck Middleton: 625-3134; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

January Meeting Highlights

George and Nancy Kuffel were our hosts this month in their nice all-weather shop. And Mike Dupuis joined as a new member this month. Mike told a bit about his experience gathering (as many of us did) Rita wood for turning. He also does some cabinet making.

Dick Trouth reminded everyone that the LCWW has a mentor program (listed at the top of this page). Feel free to contact any of the members by phone if you are faced with a woodworking problem you can't get your mind around. Sometime another pair of eyes really works.

Our monthly safety discussion ranged far and wide with the mention that sharp tools are almost always safer than dull ones. A sharpened blade works faster, cleaner and safer than any dull one whether they be hand or power tools.

There was also continued talk about dust collection and in particular regarding static grounding when using PVC pipes. Jeff Cormier said this is particularly important when working MDF and in particular when using a shop vacume attached directly to the tool with most any wood product.

There is a great book titled "Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)" that discusses why we make the decisions we do and how we justify what ever decision we make, no matter how large or small. Jeff advised that when ever you make a mistake in the shop, no matter how trivial, stop and back away from the project for a bit. Go back in the house and do something different, even if it is for a short time. This will clear your mind and you will ultimately have a better project. The tendency we all get into is moving way too fast through a project through any stage - designing, measuring, cutting, assembly or finish. Take it slowly and do better.

We finally mentioned the proper time and place to use gloves. Avoid wearing gloves when using any tool (with the possible exception of a chain saw) as you are less sensitive to what the tool is doing. An alternative to a full glove is a weight lifter or sailing glove as the palm is protected leaving the sensitive fingers exposed. The only real exception is during finishing as you do not want to permit any chemical to be absorbed into your skin.

Show and Tell brought us some fine work from members including a bowling pin gravel by Mr. Thibodeaux and a

nice trim router he got from Dewalt with two bases - fixed and plunge. The design is much like the Porter-Cable 600 series but smaller.

J.W. Anderson showed off a pecan nut craker of interesting design while Pie Sonnier brought an armoire he built for a child for doll clothes complete with hand made clothes hangers.

Dr. Fey had a turned sycamore candle holder made for the Christmas season and Don Elfert brought an interesting coat rack of stained pine with brass coat hooks and finished with a spray poly product.

George Stegal brought us some mystery wood - medium dark and very dense. While there was some head scratching, the only real way to find out is by sending a sample to the LSU Ag Center in BR for microscopic examination. George also showed photos of a lovely box he built and sold. Someone (didn't get who) brought a great marking gage of dogwood - maybe George.

Steve McCorquodale showed pictures of a Murphy bed of pine and cypress plywood from a kit plan from Rockler called Creat-A-Bed. Very nice casework Gary Rock had some beautiful ornaments, a few hollow forms all of which were greatly admired. Gary also won the Bring-It-Back - a great plant stand by J. W. Anderson while Eltee (as usual) won the regular drawing. The next time Mr. Thibodeaux is feeling jst right, he needs to invit us all to go with him to gamble!

Send us your dues as this may be the last Newsletter you get. Touch base with Joe Comeaux, 1675 Campfire Rd., LC 70611 - only \$20.

Coming Up . . . February 12 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of J. W Anderson. You'll see a nice shop and have a great time.



Tool Reviews

Bosch PS 21 Pocket Driver

You will really like the cordless, compact drivers, and they just keep getting better and better. Bosch has reworked their PS20 Pocket Driver, resulting in the new PS21, \$145 a retail. Just in case compact wasn't good enough for you, Bosch has made the PS21 even compacter (is that a word...?). The overall length of the head is only 5.6", and overall height is 7" making it, according to Bosch, the most compact 12-volt driving tool on the market, along with being the lightest tool in its category. That's a lot of bang in a small package.

Here are the numbers: the PS21 delivers 265 inch/pounds of torque. With its new two-speed feature it runs at 0-350 and 0-1300 rpm. It's nice to see the additional speed setting on this tool. Not many compact drivers have two speed ranges. Bosch's PS21 Pocket Driver comes with two batteries, a 30-minute charger and a soft-side case.

If you haven't had a look at the cordless compact drivers yet, you should. They're a great tool to have in the shop, and around the house. *From Woodworker's Guild, edited by Barry Humphus.*

The Leigh D4R Pro Jig

The Leigh D4R and D4R Pro dovetail jigs have received a lot of press as great dovetail jigs. Justifiably so. One complaint users have had is that, until now, half-blind dovetails were cut one board at a time, where other jigs allow the tail and socket boards to be cut at the same time.

The new D4R Pro, \$549 retail, has been reworked so that it'll cut half-blind dovetails and finger joints right out of the box. No need to purchase additional accessories. This is a great addition to an already fine jig. Anyone who purchased a D4R Pro jig prior to these changes being made can get an upgrade kit, for free, directly from Leigh. Owners of the D4R jig can purchase an upgrade kit. In addition to adding the upgrade kit they'll need to drill holes in the template fingers for a small stop rod, which Leigh provides instructions for. *From Woodworker's Guild, edited by Barry Humphus.*

Bosch 12v Max Multi-X Carpenter Kit Model PS50-2B "Do I really need this" tool? You find it more useful than you imagined. It lives on the bench for quick access, and you use it to do many odd jobs that are much harder to do with other tools. You should keep it equipped with the triangular sanding head and 180-grit sandpaper so you can use the tool to quickly remove pencil marks from workpieces. That alone doesn't justify the cost of the tool, but that and the many other tasks it performs does.

There are many accessory tools available for the Multi-X, and changing tools is quick and easy. An Allen head bolt locks accessories to the accessory holder which has locating pins so accessories can be positioned at any of 12 locations at 30° intervals. Accessories include wood and metal saw blades, a triangular sanding pad and many different grits of sandpaper, a grout removal tool, and scrapers for removing paint and caulk. There's also a dual-purpose adapter that allows you to mount the Bosch accessories at any angle relative to the tool, and to mount competitor accessories as well.

It uses the same lithium-ion battery as the rest of Bosch's Litheon 12V Max tools. That's nice because you only need to keep one battery charging, and it will work for all the tools. No bench top full of battery chargers! The batteries are small, they charge in 30 minutes, they're powerful, and they hold a charge and run for a long time. The Multi-X also has a battery charge indicator that shows you how much "juice" remains.

The Multi-X is small so it's easy to get it into tight spaces. It has a variable speed oscillating head that ranges from 5,000 to 20,000 oscillations per minute (OPM) and similar to the RPM of a Dremel MutiTool. The side-to-side travel of the oscillation is short so it's easy to control the tool since it doesn't jump around when used. The variable speed feature shines when you're sanding because the tool at 20,000 OPM is very aggressive. Slowing it down gives you much greater control. One thing to note: It sands faster than you might think, so use a fine grit sandpaper and the slowest speed to start, hold the tool flat and with light pressure, and move it over the surface quickly. It won't take you long to get the "feel" of the tool.

It's great for sanding in tight corners when smoothing between coats of finish on frame and panel doors and cabinets. Flush cutting decorative or other bungs is a breeze.

You can make a dedicated flush cut saw by removing the saw tooth "set" on the bottom side of one of the wood cutting accessory saw blades. You turn the tool on and hold the tool flat on a shapening stone for a few seconds. That removes the tooth set on the bottom side of the saw blade so now the saw won't scratch when it's flush cutting.

It's cordless, compact, and portable. And really shines when you need to reach in and cut something in a very tight space. Use it to clean up the walls of mortises, trim tenon ends, flush cut screws and blots, and sand pretty much everything. About \$187 retail. *From Woodworker's Guild, edited by Barry Humphus.*

Dick Hopes - The Toy Man

Our dear friend and long time colleague in the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club died January 24, 2011 after a long spot of heart problems. Dick joined the LCWW in 1997. He was a long time Officer and Board Member of the club, serving as Treasurer for more than 10 years taking over from the late Bob Ferguson.



His love of woodworking and children drove him to make literally thousands of wood toys and other items for children over the years, most of which he donated to various charitable organizations in the Lake Area.

We shall all miss this fine craftsman of dry wit, kindness and dedication to the LCWW and to the community. We are sorry for the loss to his family and his many friends.

Three Great Tablesaw Blades

One of the coolest table saws I ever saw was an old Oliver (and I mean really old). Turning a crank on the front of the machine rotated one blade out of the way under the table and brought another one up. What an easy way to change blades...no wrench required.

For the rest of us, changing blades means grabbing a wrench and making the swap. But you need to know which blade to put on, depending on what you're planning on doing. There's no shortage when it comes to types of blades you can put on your table saw. But in my experience we can narrow your search down to three very useful blades.

First, a crosscut/sheet stock blade with a high tooth count and alternate top bevel tooth pattern. On 10" blades look for a tooth count of 60-80 teeth. Use this blade to get high quality cuts on the end grain of soft and hard woods, along with smooth and chip-free cuts on man-made materials like plywood. Remember that neither man-made materials nor end grain should be run across a jointer, so you want to get the best possible cut quality right off the blade. The alternate top bevel buys you that cut quality.

Delicate rip saw bladeNext, a dedicated rip blade. These typically have 24-40 teeth and a flat top grind. A rip blade will hog through solid woods like there's no tomorrow. "But hey," you say, "if the cut quality on those 60-80 tooth blades is so good, why not use that one for ripping, too?" Have a look at the gullets, the valleys between the teeth. Ripping blades need big gullets to carry away the large chips that ripping produces. If you try to rip with a crosscut blade you'll most likely overheat and ruin the blade. No good. Yes, you can cross cut and cut sheet goods with a rip blade, but you

probably won't be happy with the cut quality (or lack thereof).

Finally, a combo blade that will do both crosscutting and ripping. These 40-tooth alternate top bevel blades have become very popular, and do a nice job. If you want to hang one blade on your saw, and leave it on there, this is the blade of choice. *From Woodworkers Guild edited by Barry Humphus.*

Get that Chisel Sharp

Anybody who shaves knows that a dull cutting tool is more likely to do damage than a sharp one. Same goes for wood-working chisels. You've got to get those chisels sharp if you want to them to work well, and be safe to use.

Most chisels are ground, not honed by the manufacturer. Grinding is a shaping process, not a sharpening one. Honing is what it takes to get the chisel really sharp so it cuts effectively. The goal is to remove the marks left behind by the grinder during the shaping process.

With a whetstone and some lubricating oil use the fine side of your stone. Saturating the stone with oil prevents the metal filings from clogging up the stone. A new stone is thirsty and will soak up a lot of oil. Make sure there's always oil on the surface of the stone when you're sharpening.

Find the sharpening angle by holding the chisel on the stone with the handle parallel to the bench. Lift the handle until you feel the bevel of the cutting tip go flat on the stone. Just as it goes flat you'll see a puddle of oil pushed out from under this chisel. This is a good sign you've got the angle right.

Holding the chisel at the correct angle, slide your index finger down so you can feel the whetstone. Maintaining consistent contact between your finger and the stone will help you keep the angle correct as you sharpen.

Stroke the chisel up and down the length of the stone. Be sure to use the entire surface of the stone or you can wear it unevenly, and it won't be flat.

Not sure you're keeping the angle right? Color in the bevel of the chisel with a felt tip, then take a few strokes on the stone. Then have a look at the bevel.

If you're holding the bevel perfectly flat, you'll be removing color uniformly. If you're holding the bevel perfectly flat, you'll be removing color uniformly. In this case it's being taken off the tip, but not the rest of the bevel, so the chisel handle is too high. Correct the angle and keep going.

Remember that your goal is to eliminate all the grinding marks. This chisel is nearly done, but there's one more step called lapping. After you've honed the bevel of the chisel to perfection, you need to flatten the back. This is called lapping. A perfectly flat back will make the chisel cut much better. *From Woodworkers Guild edited by Barry Humphus.*