

Gary Rock, President  
Dick Hopes, Sec. / Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Chermie  
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

### JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting was called to order by Gary Rock at the large warm shop of George Kuffel. George is a master of woodworking jigs and it's always a pleasure to see what he has created the last time we visited.

Gary reminded the mebership present that it's time to renew memberships for the year 2007. If your membership is not up to date you will not continue to receive the Newsletter.

Gary thanked George Kuffel for hosting our January meeting and as well as thanking J.W. Anderson again for donating the great Cypress porch swing for the raffle at the December meeting.

Gary discussed safety in the work shop with regard to the changing of blades on a table saw. He asked the group, "What is the first thing that you do when changing the blades on your table saw?" And the answer was "unplug the saw, before changing a blade." This makes sense but it is so easy to forget.

After removing power, remove the table insert. Then block the existing blade from turning (most table saws do not have arbor locks). You can block the existing blade in a couple of ways: attach a "visegrip" pliers to the blade so that it will not turn or simply block it with a piece of scrap wood. Note that some saws come with reverse threads on the arbor spindle. Check your table saw instruction booklet before applying a large wrench to the arbor nut.

Note the orientation of the washer under the arbor nut as you remove it so that the washer can go back in the proper way once you've installed the replacement blade. Also, some saws come with or have an after-market 'stabilizer' disk. Be certain that if your saw uses one of these, that it goes back on properly. Tighten the arbor nut but don't go nuts with this. An over-tightened arbor nut can distort a table saw blade such that the run-out will change. And, always check the run-out after the blade goes back on.

A discussion followed on toxicity of Cedar. There is strong scientific evidence that pine and cedar shavings are harmful to the health of some animals. Both of these softwood shavings give off aromatic hydrocarbons (phenols) and acids that are

toxic. The phenols, which give the shavings their scent, are the reason that cedar repels fleas and moths and why pine-oil is the major ingredient in 'Pine-Sol' brand disinfectant. In the laboratory, autoclaved pine and cedar shavings have been shown to inhibit the growth of micro-organisms. When animals are exposed to these softwood shavings, the aromatic hydrocarbons are absorbed through the respiratory tract and enter the blood. For example, do not use cedar as a bedding for small pets such as mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, small cats or small dogs.

Mitch Frazer discussed a way for John Perry to solve an interesting jointery problem with a reversible glue joint router bit set and a jig. The non-standard angles that faced John were giving him fits!

Dick Truth gave his report on the LCWW toy project for the Calcasieu Women's Shelter. The total this year was 400 + toys. Donna Green of the Women's Shelter reported that some of the surplus was passed on to another agency.

The Bring Back Item was won by Goerge Kuffel — one of Pie Sonnier's wooden vehicles. The Door Prize, was won by Mitchell Frazer, who is a returning old member (and a new member) of the club. February's Bring It Back will come from Barry Humphus.

There were three guests at the January meeting: Robert King, Ken Bellard and Bill Tolin.

Show and Tell brought us a Pie Sonnier-wooden backhoe; J.W. Anderson had three turkey calls he made plus pie cooling rack and an antique wooden brace and a new one and he made. Aaron Andrepont showed a picture frame box he made for his wife plus two magnetic feather boards with quick release. Gary Rock- brought a baby rattle made out of mahogany and sycamore. Dick Hopes brought a shop apron made by his daughter.

Remember that every month, there is either a door prize or raffel where you can get really neat stuff. You have to be there to win!

Coming Up . . . Saturday, February 10, 9:00 a.m. at the shop of Dick Truth with a demo of a frame mortising and tenon jig from Lee Industries.

#### DICK TROUTH: FINE WOODWORKER

I first started woodworking probably before I started school. I was building cars and boats out of scrap lumber so I would have toys to push around in the dirt. I did this for several years and because we moved a lot and my dad built several houses and I had a lot of material to work with.

My first formal woodworking instruction was in the seventh grade. I was taught how to use and care for hand tools and learned basic joinery and turning. I made my Grandmother a pine rolling pin which has come back to me after nearly fifty years.

As my education continued, I learned to use power tools and more complex joinery techniques and how to apply finishes.

After finishing public education, my woodworking interest was put on hold for several years except for carpentry (which I never truly enjoyed.)

My interest in fine woodworking began again in the early 1980's when I was able to afford buying power tools and furnishing a shop. I enjoy turning, making furniture, kitchen, and other household items.

Since my other favorite hobby is reading, I continue my woodworking education by reading many woodworking magazines and books and watching videos. I also enjoy helping others learn the proper and safe ways of using tools and building projects for themselves.

I believe woodworking is a very rewarding hobby and am sorry to see woodworking classes being phased out of our public school systems. I think the youth of our country are being deprived of a very important area of education. *Dick Troth.*

#### QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

The first quarter board meeting was held Saturday February 3rd at the home of Gary Rock. Attending were Gary, Dick Troth, George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton and Barry Humphus. The meeting was called to order by Gary at 9:00 a.m.

The agenda included meeting locations for the next quarter. These are April 14th: Chuck Middleton's new shop; May 12th: Eltee Thibodeaux's shop; June 9th: Pie Sonnier's shop.

Dick Troth, J.W. Anderson and Pie Sonnier reported that some 225 painted wooden cars were delivered to the Calcasieu Women's Shelter.

A discussion was made about promoting the

LCWW's at the next Stine's power tool Tent Sale. Gary Rock will contact David Stine regarding the possibility of participating in that event to promote woodworking and membership in the LCWW.

Jeff Cormier will be ask to contact PPG regarding the availability and dates for the next annual BBQ. This annual event will likely be held in the Fall, likely in October and with a large door prize. Members who have not renewed for 2007 will be contacted during the coming month as a reminder.

Barry mentioned that Steve Brady, a member of the South East Texas Woodworkers club, will be our guest at the February meeting. Barry also put a link to the SEWW club on the our web site on the Links page. The SEWW meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Acadian Hardwoods in Rose City, TX at 7:00 p.m.

We also discussed having one or more outside presentations on design or shape concepts. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

#### MENTORING PROGRAM

The LCWW offers our members a mentoring program. If you have a project, a problem in woodworking, construction, design, finishing or anything related, we can help. Several members have volenteered their considerable expertise in their area of interest. Mentors include:

Jeff Cormier: cabinet making & design, 582-3278
Barry Humphus: general & tools, 477-8474
George Kuffel: general & jigs, 478-2707
John Marcon: carving & finishing, 478-0646
Chuck Middleton: scrollwork, 478-0646
Gary Rock: turning & finishing, 478-0646
Eltee Thibodeaux: scrollwork, 436-1997
Dick Troth: general, finishing & turning, 583-2683

Just give them a call and if they can't help, they can probably find someone who can.

#### DUES TIME

If you want to receive the Newsletter, go to meetings, eat hot donuts, drink fresh coffee plus have a great time with woodworkers, you need to send in your 2007 membership dues. We know that sometimes you can't go to a meeting. That's OK. But only with your support, can we support you. Send your \$20 dues to Dick Hopes, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611.

## DELTA VS JET VS TORMEK

Leonard and Theresa Wilfert loaned me their Delta Sharpening Center after purchasing it from J. W. Anderson last Fall. With this machine, I began a serious look at what a wet sharpening system can do in-so-far as quickly getting your tools razor sharp.

The Delta unit (23-700) is a good entry-level machine and is very reasonably priced at about \$150 from several sources. It has a tool rest plus miter, a 10 inch 70 rpm wet wheel ( $Al_2O_3$ ) that is rated at 220 grit and a 5 inch wheel (with shield and small tool rest and also  $Al_2O_3$ ) as part of the unit. The wet wheel has a reduction gear from it's 1/5 HP single speed (3450 rpm) motor. The water tray is fixed but has a convenient drain plug for when you move it.

What I learned from this machine is that it is a pretty good one for plane irons, chisels, scrapers and flat skewes. It is more difficult to use for bowl or spindle gouges or curved carving tools. The stone can be graded using either the Tormek or Jet grading stones to a finer effective grit. However, the unit has no provision for a leather hone to highly polish edges after basic sharpening. It also has no provision for truing the main stone though you could use a stone truing tool (about \$10 at Lowes/Home Depot) with the tool rest to re-true the stone as it wears.

For most plane irons and chisels, you want a bevel that is about 25°. As you are grinding a curved bevel instead of the factory flat bevel, you need to increase your angle to about 28° to avoid a delicate wire edge. While there are several methods to determining this angle (including just guessing), any cheap angle gage (Jet's Existing Angle Measuring Device, \$6 from Rockler) works well. You can move the rest in and out as well as set its angle relative to the stone while matching the existing grind by sighting along the point where the bevel meets the stone and locking the rest. Turn on the unit and move the tool back and forth over the stone's surface using the miter (set at 90°). I suggest you mark the grind on the tool with a 'sharpee' marker so you know how you've matched the existing grind with the new one.

Once ground, you can hone the edge on the back of an old leather belt coated with honing compound and oil. Automotive valve grinding compound and ATF fluid works well and gives a good quick polish.

Sharpening with the Delta unit certainly is a lot faster than using three or four Japanese wet stones and a Veritas jig, especially if you need to re-grind to a new angle. I know this from years of practice.

While you can also grind rounded tools such as gouges, this takes considerable practice and you will not likely achieve a fine edge every time. Start with a spindle

gouge for practice then move to a bowl or similar gouge as you get the hang of the continuous swaying from side to side.

I have long admired the Tormek Sharpening System. It is fast, gives a very consistent grind that is repeatable. Once the bevel is achieved, honing or stropping the edge is about all you need to maintain sharpness over much use of the tool. The Tormek is made in Sweden and has been around many years. While the basic system has not changed, the details have as Tormek's designers have continued to tweak the product, add more jigs and improve the instructional materials. Unfortunately, Tormek's basic patents have expired and other manufacturers have jumped in to produce similar products, such as Jet's Slow Speed Wet Sharpening System.

Because the Jet and Tormek systems are so similar, the jigs that they use are interchangeable. So if you get a good deal on the base unit, you can use jigs from either.

There are some differences worth noting. The Tormek is a single speed unit while the Jet is variable speed. This doesn't mean much until the stone wears down appreciably, say from the original 10 inches to 7-8 inches. With a variable speed, you can maintain the proper grinding speed longer before the stone has to be replaced. Another advantage with the Jet is that you can grind faster (up to 150 rpm) with no loss in sharpening quality.

The Jet has a wider water tray than the Tormek as well as the tray having two height positions. This means less water drips onto your feet and as the stone wears down, it will still be in the water.

There is also a cost difference with the Jet \$100 cheaper than the Tormek for the base unit. With both, however, there are a large number of jigs that can be used for sharpening just about anything that will take an edge. My suspicion is that both manufacturers are at about break-even on the price of their base units. It is the jigs where they make their money! The Gillett Safety Razor company made millions on the blades, not the razors as Hewlett-Packard today does on ink cartridges, not the printers. So the idea is not a new one.

I have to give a slight 'edge' to the Jet's newer idea of a variable speed motor that allows me more time at the lathe and less bent over a wet sharpener. *Barry Humphus.*

