

Steve Thomas, President
Sandy Kramer, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Dick Trouth

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.

October Meeting Highlights

Our meeting in October was at the great shop of our President, Stephen Thomas. Thanks to Stephen for the time in this nice place. Also thanks to Larry Cooper and Joe Comeaux for loaning and hauling extra chairs. Our guest this month was Larry Robinson.

Stephen Thomas presented the safety discussion this month on eye protection. In this he showed standard industrial types that have side shields. You can get a set of side shields for your regular glasses as well from many local sources. To find these and other personal safety equipment products, just search with your favorite search engine for "Safety Equipment Lake Charles" to find a location near you. Look for the ANSI rating when purchasing. Full face shields are also very useful as we have been hit by debris from my table saw, router and lathe. This make great sense for any woodworker, even if you are using only hand power tools.

There was a discussion about grinder wheel dressing products to safely dress these wheels. It is important to 'true' these prior to sharpening with one. If you have ground aluminum, do not grind anything that contains iron or steel afterward without dressing your wheel first as you can get .

George Carr did a great Powerpoint presentation about chip carving with a presentation about carving in general. George discussed relief carving, framed carving, 360 degree carving, that is in the round carving and much more including the carving tools used. Thanks George!

Beginning Show and Tell, Mike Dupuis showed off a very nice Bradford pear bowl and J.W.Anderson gave away some nice beach toaster tongs that he made. These are great tools to have for your toaster. We used one a couple of years ago to capture a snake out of my court yard trying to go after my gold fish. Thanks Mr. Anderson!

OK - we all want to see the wonderful constructions of Pie Sonnier and this month he had something that anyone who has had a military experience will appreciate.



An incredible Black Hawk Helicopter from all the usual woods such as cherry, black walnut and more from a plan. This object should make lots of money for the lucky person who may acquire this incredible model.

Bill Levy brought us and did a barn motif of fence slats. Don Elfert did a bird house of nice design. Steve McCorquodale did a great towel holder.

Our friend Gary Rock had a pecan bowl cut and glued with a zipper motif. Stephen Thomas had a pecan bowl of ash, purple heart and segmented.

George Carr won the Show and Tell prize. The November meeting will be at the shop of Darren Menanard in Sulphur (actually in Carlyss). Please see the directions on page four of the Newsletter.

Joe Comeaux mentioned that the December meeting will once again be hosted by Larry & Lede Cooper at their great shop.

A change this time is that we will start the meeting at 10:00 A.M. and gumbo will be provided along with other goodies. Joe asked that we should think about what other items are needed and could be brought plus consider bringing some sweets. LCWW will supply the main food and Joe and a friend will prepare the gumbo.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, November 9 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Darren Menard.



Tune up Your Bandsaw

All the accessories in the world won't help much if your bandsaw stalls during demanding cuts or shakes like an over-caffeinated chihuahua. Smooth out the tremors and get as much cutting power as possible with these upgrades.

When the V-belt that connects the motor pulley and drive pulley sits in one position too long, it can take on a permanent curve, or "set," where it wraps around the pulleys, causing a nasty vibration. Replace it with a link-type belt that stays flexible and absorbs vibration better than one-piece standard V-belts. You can buy it by the foot, then adjust its length to fit your saw by adding or removing links.

If replacing the belt doesn't calm the jitters, check for out-of-balance wheels. To do this, remove the blade and drive belt so the wheels spin freely. Working on one wheel at a time, make a mark on the inside edge of the rim at its lowest point. Give the wheel a gentle spin, wait for it to stop, and make another mark at the bottom. Do this five times. Randomly-spaced marks mean the wheel is balanced. But a cluster of marks in one area points out a heavy spot and indicates the wheel needs to be balanced.

To do this, clean the wheel rim directly opposite the marks with rubbing alcohol and allow it to dry; then apply self-adhesive wheel weights to the cleaned area, starting with 1/4 ounce. Repeat the "spin test," this time making marks with a different-colored marker. Grouped marks again tell you to apply more weight, or change the amount or position of weights already in place. For small adjustments, divide the soft metal weights with an old chisel or knife.

Resawing wide stock requires all the power a bandsaw has to give, so make the most of your saw's efforts by stepping up to the widest 3-tooth-per-inch (tpi) blade your saw accepts. A wider blade flexes less for truer rip cuts and its larger surface area dissipates heat better so the blade stays sharp longer. The aggressive hook angle of the teeth on a resaw blade cuts quickly, generating a lot of sawdust. The large gullets clear that waste faster.

A blade with variable pitch, alternates sections of 2-tpi and 3-tpi. The 2-tpi sections cut quickly, even through the widest stock your saw handles. The 3 tpi sections reduce vibration, giving a relatively smooth finish. I read and several members have suggested that the best blade for resawing is the Wood-Mizer or the Wood Slicer are good for doing resawing.

Without guide blocks or bearings above and below the table, a bandsaw blade would wander like a four-year-old on her first ride without training wheels. Like that child, bandsaw blades, and sometimes the workpiece, need guidance. Keep them on track with these enhancements.

Guide blocks, with their large surface area, work especially well guiding wide blades, while roller bearings create less friction and heat buildup. Stacked roller-bearing guides from Carter Products, for example, combine the best of blocks and bearings. They also have toolless adjustment: Twist a thumbscrew to loosen a bearing; then fine-tune its position with the microadjuster. Cinch up the thumbscrew to lock the bearing in position. Note that the Carter system does not fit all bandsaws and in particularly older models. Check with them prior to purchase.

A specialized guide bearing helps narrow blades (1/8" and 1/16") track true during curved cuts. The rear of the



blade rides in a groove in the bearing's edge. The groove provides side-to-side support and the bearing reduces friction. Carter Products makes these as well but do not fit all models.

If you don't have the budget for bearing guides or if your bandsaw does not work with them, ceramic guide blocks provide an inexpensive upgrade from the factory-supplied metal blocks. The large, flat faces provide the same solid blade support, but the ceramic material generates less friction, so they run cooler. That translates into longer blade life. Installation is as simple as loosening a bolt or thumb
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screw to remove the steel blocks, then putting the ceramic blocks in place. They wear so well that most manufacturers guarantees them forever.

For resawing and straight-line rips, a good fence is essential, yet many saws come with no fence or a poor-performing one. The Kreg fence packs a lot of features in an affordable package. It pivots to account for blade drift (the tendency of a blade to pull to one side). For sawing thin, narrow stock, mount the fence with the wide face down on the table. It can then extend under the guide assembly, even with the assembly close to the tabletop. The fence easily lifts off the rail for quick switching from straight cuts to freehand work. An optional micro-adjuster makes precise fence movements easy. Note that the Kreg does not fit all models. If it does not fit your bandsaw, you can add an auxiliary to your existing fence.

Like any of us, a bandsaw occasionally needs relief from tension - the tension needed to keep its blade cutting true, that is. Relieving that tension extends the life of the wheel bearings and tires, and makes blade changes possible. These accessories simplify taking your saw from tightly wound to relaxed and back again.

Bandsaw springs, like all of us, lose their ability to bounce back as they get older. If yours no longer has enough "oomph" to tension wide blades, replace it with a heavy-duty aftermarket spring. On most saws, installation goes quickly and doesn't require any special tools.

Bandsaw Tuneup Continues . . .

I found that after installing a stronger spring, it took fewer turns of the tensioning knob to properly tension a blade. With springs to fit most sizes of bandsaws, this inexpensive upgrade offers a lot of bang for your buck.

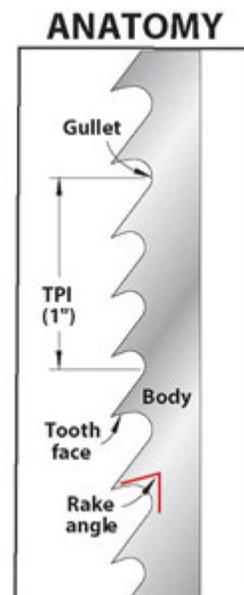
Small tensioning knobs prove difficult to grip, don't provide much leverage, and only allow half of a rotation before you need to change your grip. This is the case with my Craftsman 12 inch. Turning them can literally be a pain. Mount a 6"-diameter cast wheel with a spinning handle, and adjusting blade tension becomes easy. The chrome finish prevents rust and looks nice, too. (Item 10888 Iturra Design, 904-642-2802.). You can also make your own with a wooden disk in place of the small knob (what I did) and that works as well.

There are also quick-release levers that applies or removes blade tension in a snap. In the up position, the mechanism keeps the blade under tension, ready for use. Pivot the lever down toward the table to release all tension for blade changes and between work sessions. The middle position relieves stress on the wheels and saw frame, but

provides enough tension to hold the blade in place while mounting a blade and checking tracking. The video for this upgrade I saw suggests that it took about 15 minutes to install, a small investment quickly regained with faster blade changes.

No bandsaw add-on will help much if you can't see what you are doing. So defeat the forces of darkness with a task light. A magnetic base light sticks to any steel or iron surface, and a gooseneck puts the light exactly where you need it. LED type lights shine a bright spotlight without the heat of incandescent bulbs. Power comes from four AA batteries in the base. You can find these at Harbor Freight.

As you shop for blades, it helps to know some of the essential terms: Gullet: a chip-clearing gap between the teeth. Pitch: the spacing of teeth, expressed in teeth-per-inch (TPI). Rake angle: the angle of the tooth face relative to the blade body.



Match the blade pitch to the workpiece thickness. The thinner the stock, the greater the TPI you can use. You want at least three teeth in the wood at any one time as the blade cuts, but no more than 12. (To resaw pieces more than 6" wide, just slow the feed rate.) More teeth leave smoother surfaces, but have smaller gullets that inhibit chip clearing.

Constant tension on an idle bandsaw blade creates stresses that lead to premature wear, vibration, and broken blades. Detension if the saw will sit unused for more than a day.

Time to Pay

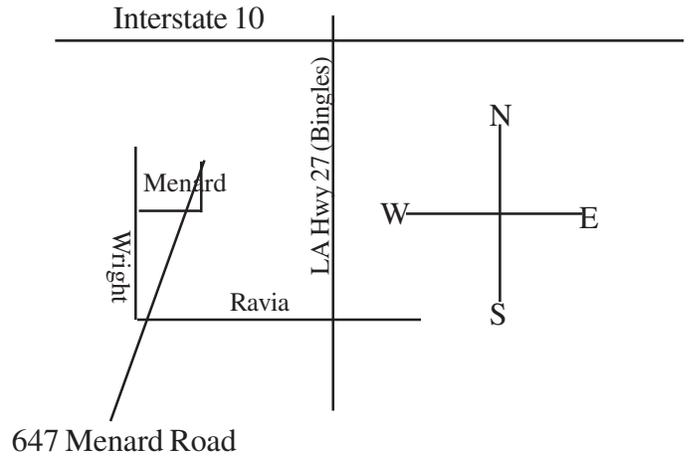
I trust that you have enjoyed each and every LCWW you have attended and we invite you to many more. The cost is small - just \$20 per year for a family membership. See Sandy Kramer, Stephen Thomas or Barry Humphus at the next meeting to pay your dues.

November Meeting Location

Via Bob Theaux, we will meet at the shop of Darren Menard.

If you have been to Dick Troth's shop you are almost there. Exit off I-10 onto La 27 (Bengles Parkway) and go South. Turn RIGHT (West) onto Ravia Road. As Ravia Road takes a right, it turns into Wright Road. Just under a mile, turn Right onto Menard Road.

The address is 647 Menard Road. If you need further information or directions, please give Bob Theaux a call at 528-9165.



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