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

June Meeting Highlights

Pie Sonnier was our host this month at his shop and like the last time, Mrs. Sonnier made the most wonderful biscuits. Just behind the meeting area was the largest traffic jam in Lake Area history with a display of Pie's past work.



Gary Rock's monthly safety briefing was based on his recent experience with prostate cancer. His advise to all the male members is to get an annual PSA and DRE.

Show and Tell brought us some items from J.W. Anderson (who will host us next month) that included a bow jig used to create arches. John Perry also described another method of accomplishing this task. J.W. also showed off an Elm mallet plus a great old cove molding plane.



Gary Rock brought a pecan bowl with lots of worm holes and tourquois inlay. Other bowls included a couple of small ones of bodark and holly root plus a larger bowl of sweet gum.

Dick Hope's grandson John showed off his first scrawlwork item and our host, Pie Sonnier had a 1934 Packard V-12 replica that is still in progress.



Barry Humphus passed around a bowl and asked members to guess what wood it was turned from. Barry gave a series of uses and hints about the wood until he mentioned that the pulp and husks from the fruit are used to manufacture

automotive brake linings. That nailed it for Dick Truth who correctly guessed cashew. Barry got the wood originally from a friend who had picked it up for him in Belize where it grows.

In relation to the July meeting at Mr. Thibodeaux's shop, there was a discussion of the Legacy jig system and its comparison to the Sears Router Crafter jig.

John Perry discussed the use of computer aided design software. CAD is especially useful to cabinet and furniture makers particularly where custom fitted cabinets must be built. He mentioned that prices for CAD software can range from \$30 to as much as \$3,000. John also mentioned that there are systems to convert blueprint or draftsman drawings to CAD for modification.

Jeff Cormier discussed the making of templates for his cabinet making. For the most part, Jeff does full size cardboard cutouts for various pieces. Perhaps we'll see some of this at our September meeting at his shop.

John Marcon mentioned that he has some photos of large carvings he has taken over the years during his travels. John also described his experience working in a company town carpentry shop.

There have been a few changes in meeting places and we'll established the rest of the meeting for the year. In August, J.W. Anderson will host us at his home in DeRidder. As mentioned earlier, Jeff Cormier will have the honors in September. Of course, you don't want to miss this year's BBQ at the PPG Family Center on Wednesday, October 17.

Stine Lumber will host us in November for a demonstration by a Freud Saw Blade representative. The date, time and location (either Sulphur or Lake Charles Stine's) should be set soon.

Due to a timing conflict the holiday meeting in December has been moved to the shop of Chuck and Charlene Middleton.

Note that tickets for the Annual BBQ will go on sale at the July meeting at Eltee Thibodeaux's shop. The price is still a low \$10 per person for a great meal and a great time. The tickets will be available from Gary Rock, Barry Humphus, Dick Hopes and maybe others.

Coming Up . . . Saturday July 14, 9:00 a.m. at the shop of Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux.

From The President

Mr. Robert Patin passed away last month. The club sent a really nice spray with our banner letters on it. He was an phenomenal wood turner, who was willing to help anyone from novice to advanced turner when a problem arose. I met him years ago and I had him as an mentor to help me and to critic my turnings. He was a Southern gentleman in all the ways. I received a call from his daughters and asked if I would help in going through his shop: pricing tools, wood, finding manuals and grouping his lathe equipment. When all is done we will set a date to have the sell and I will put the word out. He will be missed.

If you missed our last meeting at Pie Sonnier's place, you missed a good time along with some mighty good biscuits from Mrs. Sonnier. We had a good turn out along with a good "Show and Tell." The "Bring Back Item," was brought back by James Couvillion which was a pen and pencil set. The winner of the drawing for the "Bring Back Item," was Barry Humphus, who will have till August for his "Bring Back Item." Turns out that Barry made the item originally! John Marcon won the "Raffle Item," which was an air brush. One of our own members Dick Hopes coached his grandson in doing a scroll saw plaque, which was really good. This month's "Bring Back Item," will be by George Giltner. The July meeting will be at Eltee Thibodeaux's shop where he will demo his new routing jig.

It's the time of the year that if you work outside or your shop is not air-conditioned, you need to drink plenty of water. With the temperatures being up in the upper 80's to lower 90's, drinking lots of water is very important. If you don't you will get dehydrated quickly and if you are running a piece of equipment, you could fall into it, on it and be seriously hurt. No one wants a trip to the hospital in the middle of a project.

Mark your calendars for **October 17, 2007** for our annual BBQ at P.P.G. Family Center. We will have the food catered by Hollier's Cajun Kitchen. Please feel free to bring a desert to the meeting. We will do a little business along with the "Show and Tell," then eat and visit. Also our December meeting place has changed from Mickey Hart's shop (they won't be in town then) to Chuck and Charlene

Middleton's shop. If you would like to host one of our wood working meetings, please contact me and it will be scheduled. Also there is something in the works at Stine's for our November meeting and as information becomes available, it will be passed along to ya'll.

"Remember to be safe and you will work safely" and at the end of the day, you will be able to close the shop and go into the house all in one piece.
Gary Rock

Woodworking Chisels

In this enlightened age of electronically controlled power tools, there are still many hand tools without which you cannot complete many projects. The hand saw, wood plane and chisel are the most common tools for any shop and are indispensable for fine craftwork.

No tool in the shop is more important, or more heavily used, than the chisel. Just look in any good old tool chest and what do you find, a few saws, some miscellaneous tools, and lots and lots of planes and chisels. Today there are only a hand full of good chisel makers left. Ashley Iles, Auriou, Henry Taylor, and Robert Sorby offer the some of the best chisels made today. Ashley Iles is widely accepted as offering the best selection of quality carving chisels in the world. Auriou makes traditional French carving chisels that can be compared favorably to any in the world. Henry Taylor and Robert Sorby are the last of the great Sheffield edge tool makers and offer the broadest selection of turning chisels made today, as well as a very comprehensive selection of bench chisels.

There are actually many other manufacturers and suppliers not as well known. The key to a good chisel is the steel and the handle. Hardend tool steel is the more common material and handles can be metal, wood or plastic. The critical point is if you can get and keep a fine cutting edge on the tool.

There are many types of chisels such as those used with a lathe (called gouges, skewes and scapers), carving tools (of wich there are several hundred shaps) and straight (bench) chisels with which all of us are familiar.

Always purchase the best quality you can afford. That means good steel and a handle that works for you. *Barry Humphus.*

Sharpening Chisels

How often have you put off sharpening a chisel because you're in the middle of a project and didn't want to take the time? I'll admit I've done that more than once. I usually end up grabbing a sharp tool that's either too wide or too narrow. Then I'm usually sorry I didn't take the time to sharpen the right tool. But it doesn't have to take a long time. There's no reason you can't have a razor-sharp, long-lasting edge in less time than it takes to read about how to do it. This is a two-step process.

The first step is to grind the bevel. I use an electric water bench grinder (Jet) for this, so I get a hollow ground bevel -- the bevel reflects the curve of the grinding wheel. But a standard bench grinder using a white wheel of about 80 grit will do as long as you are careful not to over-heat the metal. First, it's easier to make a uniform hollow ground bevel. And second, honing is easier because very little metal needs to be removed to hone the edge razor sharp.

If you don't have a Jet or Tormek sharpening system, I recommend using an 80-grit white aluminum oxide wheel for grinding. It cuts fast. And just as important, the binder used on a white aluminum oxide wheel allows the particles to break away faster than the particles in a general purpose wheel. This is good for two reasons: The wheel cuts faster because the cutting surface isn't clogged up with bits of cut-off metal. Since it's not clogged up, the chisel doesn't get as hot while grinding.

Heat is one of the biggest problems most people have when sharpening. If a chisel or plane iron starts to turn blue when you're sharpening, it's too hot. There's no quicker way to ruin a tool. What happens is the tool heats to a temperature that causes it to lose its temper. (Tempering is a heat treatment that makes the metal tougher so it will hold an edge longer.) If the metal loses its temper, it won't stay sharp.

Grinding a bevel is easy. The challenge is grinding a uniform bevel — one that's the same width across the end of the tool. And one with a cutting edge that's 90 degrees to the side of the tool.

There are a couple of simple tricks for doing this. First, adjust the tool rest on the grinder so the chisel (or plane iron) can lie flat on the surface of the rest, not just against the upper or lower edge. This

way you have more control. The bevel on most chisels and plane irons is 25 degrees. So set the angle of the tool rest to grind the same bevel on your tool.

If you are using a water grinding system, follow the instructions that came with the unit or the video. Otherwise, with a standard bench grinder, clamp a small, rectangular block of wood to the blade so the long side of the block butts against the lower edge of the tool rest during sharpening. This provides a positive reference point (a stop) so you can lift the tool off the wheel to inspect the bevel or dip it in water. Then the tool can be returned to precisely the same spot on the wheel.

Some chisels are too short to attach a stop block. In that case, you can use a small C-clamp as a stop. But if there's room, I use a stop block because it has the added advantage of holding the tool perpendicular to the edge of the tool rest. This makes it easier to grind a bevel that's 90 degree to the side of the tool.

With the tool rest in position and the block clamped to the tool, you're ready to grind the bevel. To do this, turn on the grinder and place the block against the tool rest and move the bevel gently across the wheel. After a couple of light side to side passes, check to see if the bevel is even, and if the cutting edge is square to the side.

Note: If the cutting edge isn't quite square, increase or decrease the angle between the side of the chisel and the top edge of the stop block. Then grind a little more off the bevel until the edge is square to the side. When the angle is right finish grinding the bevel.

Now here is the final step (again, unless you are using a Jet or Tormek system). After grinding the bevel, you're ready to move from the grinding wheel to the stone. To hone a tool that's been hollow ground, use a 1,000-grit waterstone. I like to use waterstones because they cut very fast. The 1,000-grit waterstone (a "medium" grit stone) will hone the cutting edge to a mirror finish. When you've finished grinding the bevel, you'll notice that the grinding wheel raised a burr along the back of the cutting edge. So the first step is to remove that burr. To do this, hone the back of the last inch of the chisel flat on the sharpening stone. Once you are done, you have an extremely sharp tool that will hold an edge. *Barry Humphus*