

Steve Thomas, President
Joe Comeaux Treasurer

Officers and Directors

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

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; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

March Meeting Highlights

Our host this month was Pie Sonnier at his place and it was a very nice turnout. As always, thanks so much for hosting our meeting. We all did miss Joey who was lovely and made us wonderful biscuits over the years.

Steve Thomas updated us on the 25th anniversary celebration shirts. They will be collared, grey in color with the LCWWC logo (in color) sewn into the front. The cost is about \$30 and a signup sheet for these was passed around. If you want one and did not place your order, please come to the April meeting at Jack Stegall's shop or contact Steve Thomas with your size.

Barry Humphus mentioned that you can participate in a table safety survey and if qualify, you get \$50 as long as you own a table saw that was purchased in 2009 or later. You can call them at 888-374-4908 or go to www.tablesawsurvey.com.

Steve discussed band saw safety and this is important. The band saw is rather a safe power tool than most but you need to consider what you are cutting, such as flat stock or if not, then build a jig to hold the stock properly. For example, I'm mostly cutting a log in two to make a turning bilet. Thus I have built a jig to handle logs to cut them in half to turn them. But if you need to cut curves on a bandsaw, always use a narrow blade. Steve also discussed bandsaw band tensioning and setup. Please look at your bandsaw instructions. Steve also demonstrated how to unfold and re-fold a bandsaw blade. Be certain to use a 'V' block to cut round stock on a bandsaw suggested Pie Sonnier for both cross cut or in the length. Be certain to have an assistant should you need to cut long items or use a support system. Steve mentioned that Motion Industries has bearings that



you can order for your bandsaw.

Someone mentioned having an assistant and what that may mean, One person should do the cut and the other

should just do the hold and never both should try to do the cut together.

Steve also mentioned Interstate Batteries who can rebuild or refurbish your recharable batteries. Bill Levy has a nice Dewalt scroll saw available for \$250 so contact Bill should you have an interest in the great scroll saw.

It was announced that the June meeting will be at the Stine's Lake Charles location in their meeting room at the back of the store. The Stines organization have been great friends of the LCWWC over the years and we look forward to being at this great store in the future. One more place for our future meetings is in August and that will be at the shop of George Kuffel. George has a large and comfortable shop.

Eltee Thibodeaux brought us a scrollwork trivet with a crossed pistols and boots theme in juniper. He also showed off a neat little hopping kangaroo toy. George Carr also did a trivet with chip carving out of basswood. Dustin Guidry did a Fleur de Lis in a frame of his own making out of 'pallet' wood.

John Griffin did a wonderful McNeese logo in redwood and maple veneer while Don Elfert did a great compose rose in walnut. Ray Kibideoux had a magnificent bowl with lip and finial. Steve Thomas had a small kaleidoscope he had built with four mirrors plus a diamond segmented bowl with 825 pieces and 9 layers. Pie Sonnier also showed off very old dowel maker. Gary Rock brought us a very wormy bowl he had turned in silver maple plus a Dremel worked pear bowl and painted with an aluminum finial. New member Darren Hood did a crape murtile candle holder and said he turns pens.

Thanks to Mike Dupuis for taking and sending the photos as I forgot to bring my camera this month.

Next meeting - Jack Stegall will host our meeting at his shop at 9:00 A.M on April 11, 2015

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More Band Saw Safety

A band saw is capable of many different operations, from delicate curves to cutting logs. Follow these Band saw safety guidelines to stay safe on your saw. Set the upper guide as low as possible without touching the wood. This guarantees the blade is completely covered without room for a finger to accidentally slip under the guide. Adjust the upper blade guard so the blade is completely covered. An exposed blade is always dangerous, even when it's well above the cut.

Use the correct width blade for the desired cut radius. Don't try to horse a wide blade through a tight radius. Not only will this lead to premature guide wear, but the twisting action could also cause the blade to break. Use a sharp blade. The old adage "A dull tool is more dangerous than a sharp one" is true. A dull blade requires extra feed pressure that in turn increases the likelihood of a hand slip. Plus, it makes band saw work a lot of work, and puts unnecessary strain on your saw.

Keep your hands away from the line of cut. Never push stock directly into the blade with your hand in line with the cut without a push stick. A slip of the hand could send it into the blade. Whenever possible, anchor your hands on the table and push with your fingers only. Keep shifting and planting your hands as you move through the cut. You'll also find this technique provides better control in intricate cuts since you're not using your upper body to guide the stock. A push stick keeps your fingers away from the blade. Big pieces like this take a fair amount of force, increasing the risk of a hand slip.

An outfeed support is a must to safely re-saw long stock. Attempting to guide the cut on a long board while simultaneously holding it down on the table can be difficult or impossible, especially at the end of the cut. Even if you only have one board to re-saw, it's worth taking the time to set up and use an out-feed support. And one more thing, it's often easier and safer to walk around the back of the saw and pull the board. *Barry Humphus*

Router Safety Tips

Whether you're a seasoned woodworker, or just starting out, these router safety tips will help you work safer in your shop. I've been a woodworker for 30 years, and trust me... I've made every mistake told here at least once. Fortunately, other than bruised pride and wasting some wood, I haven't been hurt. Keep yourself as safe as you can in your shop. Judiciously use your machine guards and use hold-downs and hold-ins whenever possible. Here are some rules to follow, and some things to avoid when using your router.

First, unplug the Tool. Make sure your router is unplugged before you insert bits, make height adjustments, or do any other setup type procedure. This is a good habit to get into with all your power tools and machinery.

Wear Hearing Protection. Routers are notorious "screamers." Even so, I still see some friends using their routers but not wearing hearing protection. The cumulative effects of loud noise will eventually take its toll on your hearing. Purchase high decibel reduction hearing protection and use it always.

Push Pad for Better Gripping. Use a push pad when routing grooves using a router table. The push pad gives you a positive grip for pushing the work piece down and across the bit. It also helps keep your pushing hand further away from the area where the bit will exit the work piece at the end of the cut.

Big Bit, Slow Speed. The rule of thumb is: The larger the bit diameter, the slower the router speed. See the speed chart below. Make it a habit to adjust your router's speed down before you insert the bit. That way it will not be going too fast by accident when you turn on the router.

Position the Fence Correctly. Never trap your material between the bit and fence on profile cuts. The set up shown is the correct method for routing an edge profile on a router table; with the bit inside the fence. The only time it's OK to use the fence with a bit away from the fence is when you rout a groove of some sort. Even then, when the bit exits the work piece at the end of the cut, it will grab slightly and push the work piece forward.

Two Pass Grooves. When routing a groove with a setup like this where two passes are required to finish the groove width, the second pass is always made so that cut is further from the edge guide fence. That way, the edge guide will be pulled tight to the work piece edge by the forces of the routing, instead of pushed away.

Really Sharp, Really Fast for Under \$50

If you want to get an animated discussion going within a group of woodworkers, just mention sharpening. Everyone has his or her own answer for getting the best edge in the least amount of time.

The price range for sharpening equipment is huge. At the low end of the cost scale is hand sharpening. All you need are a couple water stones and you're good to go. Hand sharpening is a wonderful skill to have but, like any skill, it takes time and practice to develop. That leaves many woodworkers frustrated and looking for a product that will give them consistent results without the learning curve. The

array of sharpening jigs and machines found in woodworking catalogs testifies to that demand. Cost for these sharpening aids can range from a few dollars for a simple jig to hundreds of dollars for a powered machine.

My hand sharpening system consists of a piece of plate glass, strips of self-stick (PSA) sand paper, and inexpensive commercial honing guide and a simple wood sled. Shims are used to create micro-bevels. Two optional strips of coarse grit in back are used for lapping the backs of chisels and plane blades. Strips of masking tape insure the blade is even with the paper for back lapping.

I came up with a system that I think delivers the best of both worlds; it's quick, easy like a machine, but also inexpensive, like hand sharpening. Total cost is less than \$50. I can touch up a tool edge in seconds or do a thorough edge treatment in a few minutes. But the best thing about the system is the result – an unbelievably sharp edge on my bench chisels and plane blades.

The sled sets this system apart. Normally, the honing guide rides on top of the sandpaper. That takes up valuable real estate on the abrasive and limits the sharpening stroke. Plus, a steel wheel running back and forth on the abrasive must shorten the life of the abrasive. So, I built a simple sled from scrap maple to hold the honing guide and bridge the sandpaper. The sled is designed to hold the honing guide and bridge the paper, allowing me to use the entire sheet at once. A slight bevel on the front of each runner helps it slide along the glass.

A set of shims allows me to create micro-bevels on my tools. They can also be used in combination to add up to 5-degrees on the bevel angle. The shims are placed on the sled underneath the honing guide.

A set of shims allows me to fine tune the bevel angle and create micro-bevels. The sled is designed to hold the honing guide and bridge the paper, allowing me to use the entire sheet at once. A slight bevel on the front of each runner helps it slide along the glass. This sled was sized for 33 wide paper.

Remove unnecessary wheel from the honing guide to better fit the cradle. I modified the honing guide to fit the sled by removing the now unnecessary wheel. Use a punch to knock the guide bars out, then unscrew the two halves of the holder and slip the wheel off the axle. Screw the halves back together and tap the guide bars back in place.

Self-stick abrasive paper is mounted on plate glass to provide a flat abrasive surface for sharpening my tools. The self-stick, or PSA paper is readily available from automotive or woodworking outlets, and comes in a variety

of sizes. I like the 33 x 13 size. Four grits of approximately 800, 1200, 1500, and 2000 grit can bring a tool from out of the box dull, to razor sharp, in minutes. If you need to lap the backs of your cutting tools or remove nicks, you may want to buy some coarse grit paper (220 to 600-grit). You can use a second piece of plate glass for the coarse grits.

Some abrasive companies use microns (m) instead of grit sizes. Unlike grit numbers, microns go down as the grit gets finer. I use 15m , 5m , 1.3m and 0.3m. Sandpaper is inexpensive, so you can experiment to find the combination of grits you like best.

The plate glass insures a dead-flat surface so I never spend time flattening dished out stones. The glass should be 1/43 or thicker and at least 123 x 183 to comfortably hold four strips of 33 x 113 sandpaper. Have the edges of the glass sanded smooth for safety.

Attach the sandpaper to the glass. Take your time to insure there are no air bubbles trapped under the sandpaper. Apply the sandpaper on the glass, leaving enough room between sheets for the skids on the sled to move freely. Start by peeling a portion of the backer off of one end and position it on the glass. Then pull the backer off as you press the paper in place. Take your time to insure there are no air bubbles trapped under the sandpaper.

Adjust the blade projection with the honing guide on the sled until the bevel lies flat on the abrasive. Lock the blade in the guide.

The next step is to properly set your plane blade or chisel in the holder. Adjust the blade projection with the honing guide on the sled until the bevel lies flat on the abrasive. Lock the blade in the guide.

Mark the blade extension on the board for future reference. Set the blade extension in the honing guide to achieve the desired bevel angle. Once you've manually set it and made a jig, it's easy to use the jig for future sharpening.

Bosch Pocket Driver, #PS20-2A, \$130

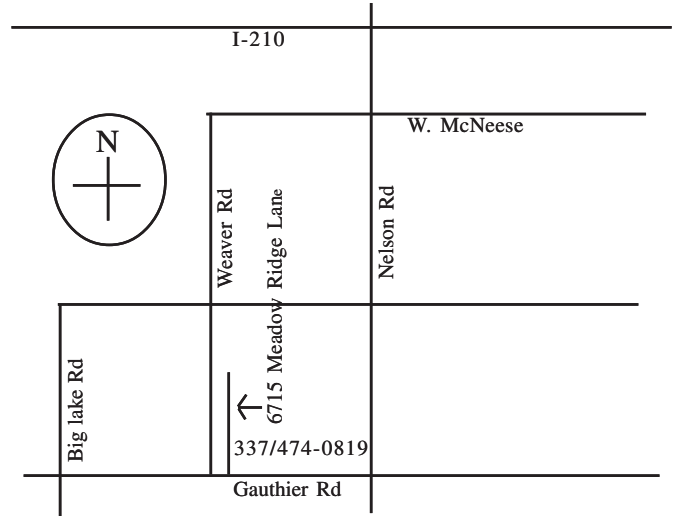
I found myself amazed by how useful this tool is. It's small, lightweight, has plenty of power, the battery charge lasts a long time, and the clutch works well. It lives up to its name since it's easily carried in an apron pocket. I use it to drive virtually every screw I install in my shop. It will easily drive 33 long #8 screws, but it's not a speed demon. If you need to drive a lot of long screws fast, you'll need to revert to a faster driver. This is not a problem, since most screws used in cabinet and furniture making are 1-1/43 or shorter. This is not a problem, since most screws used in cabinet and furniture making are 1-1/43 or shorter. *Barry Humphus*

Upcoming Meeting

Our host this month is Mr. Jack Stegall at his fine shop. Please join us there should you may.

To get to his place, go South on Weaver Road to Gauthier Rd and turn left. Go a very short distance and turn left onto Meadow Ridge Lane. Jack's place is at 6715. If you need further directions, give him or Marie a call at 337-474-0819.

Alternatively, you can take Nelson Rd South and turn right onto Gauthier Rd and then right onto Meadow Ridge Lane just before Weaver Rd.



April 2015