

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.

**December Meeting Highlights**

Our hosts this month were Lede and Larry Cooper at their wonderful shop. Once again Larry (and freinds) did a great fish fry and along with lots of great dishes from members, and a holiday feast was enjoyed by each and every one present. Thanks again, Lede and Larry.

This month was the last one for Jeff Cormier’s presidency and taking over for him beginning this month will be Steve Thomas.

Jeff reported on his use of the Work Sharp 3000 system we received from Work Sharp Tools for a try-out. We also received as part of the package, their Drill Doctor system. Jeff reported that he sharpened four sets of chisels in a short period of time. He also tested the Drill Doctor with great success. Jeff said he was going to get the Work Sharp after being very satisfied with its performance. John Shipman will be our next tester

Jeff’s safety talk this month was about remembering to wear eye protection in your shop. Protective eye goggles are inexpensive and readily available. An even better choice is a full face mask and one that I always use when turning. The advantage of this device is that you can still easily wear your regular glasses. Note however, you can get eye goggles with magnification from specialty suppliers in the area.

There were lots of Show and Tell this month and starting off was J.W. Anderson with a wonderful ‘high boy’



stand. This was constructed of beech, sycamore and red-wood with a poly finish. Pie Sonnier showed his latest creation, a knucle head Harley Chopper created from walnut, elm, maple and cherry.

Bubba Cherimie brought a candle holder set of wood and brass and discussed the difficulty of bonding the two materials. Someone suggested J.B. Weld as a possible solution. Steve Thomas had a large segmented bowl of sassafras, oak and maple.



Ronnie Kramer showed off some very nice cutting boards of maple and purple heart end grain. Ronnie put it together using Titebond III and used a mineral oil and wax finish. Steve McCorquodale brought us a unique plant stand made of mesquite burl slabs, ash legs plus cherry and oak for the braces and dowels.

Joe Comeaux turned some very nice ‘bolt-action’ pens as holiday gifts plus a neat pepper grinder of cypress. Bill Levy brought in some of his recent scroll saw work in a pelican motif. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux also brought some of his latest scroll saw work - an underwater scene of a bass going for a lure.

Gary Rock brought the Christmas tree this year. He turned the great ornaments and built the tree on which they were hung.

Jim Couvillion said that he has a 12 inch planer for sale and you should give him a call for details should you be interested.

Joey Sonnier won the Show & Tell drawing (for Pie) along with the Stine gift card. Joe Comeaux won the Bring Back Item and there were White Elephant gift exchanges.

Lede and Larry Cooper provided containers of nuts for the fund raising drawing.

**Don’t Forget Your Dues**

Yes, it’s that time again. Please bring your \$20 annaul dues to the next meeting or send it to Sandy Kramer at 6821 Banberry, LC 70605.

Comming Up . . . Saturday, January 12, 9:00 A.M. at the Mill & Work Shop of Steve McCorquodale. Come and ride the Saw Miser!

## Safety Issue Without Tools

During the Fall of last year I was cleaning, painting and repairing my rental home in preparation for re-renting it in December. I got everything done with just a few bumps and minor scrapes. The one job I was dreading was replacing several interior and at least one exterior door.

Interior doors are pretty easy to work with as these were of the hollow core type. They are light enough to easily handle, move and prepare for the installation of hardware. The exterior door though was solid core, 36 inches by 80 inches by 2-1/4 inches and very, very heavy. Just moving and clamping it up to rout the hinges was very difficult. I did have a router template that clamped to the door so that I could accurately cut the hinge mortises and bore the holes for the knob, deadbolt and latches.

The problem was the mounting of the door in an existing frame. What I should have done was to get someone to help but not having help available didn't stop me and that was the problem. Somehow the door got away from me, slapped me in the head, bent my glasses frames into my nose and right ear. I woke up under the door. I probably should have stopped right then and took a slow drive to the ER to get checked. But being a dedicated DIY person resulted in my getting the door in place, the hardware mounted and the locks installed after re-thinking how this should be done with a very heavy door and by myself.

My belief was that the most dangerous part of this process was working with the router and power drill. Those activities were thought through, step by step with careful attention to detail and power tool safety well in mind. Over the years I have preped, demounted and remounted many a door. This was not a danger that I anticipated. The lesson learned is to evaluate carefully the job at hand and never hesitate to call on a friend or neighbor when you feel unsafe doing even the simplest of jobs. *Barry Humphus.*

## Child Safety Glasses

If you've got children working with you in the shop, you want them to be safe. The number one in safety is safety glasses as Jeff Cormier suggested last month. Safety glasses that aren't comfortable won't be worn, and safety glasses that don't fit right aren't really all that safe. To protect the little eyes in your shop check out FastCap's Junior Size Safety Glasses \$5. Where most safety glasses are about 5-1/2" wide, the youth glasses are 5" wide. In addition to being great for kids, the Junior Sized glasses are handy for anyone, including adults, with a smaller head size. See them at [www.fastcap.com](http://www.fastcap.com) or give them a call at 888-442-3748. They've got lots of other items of interest as well.

## Hands Saws of the Orient

While I would never call myself a woodworking purist, I have flattened broad planks of red oak with a scrub plane and hand cut dovetails. But mostly, that's what power tools and jigs are for. Every once in a while though, I marvel at the efficiency of a beautifully designed hand tool. In fact, you just might abandon your power tools and head off to the woods with some of these Japanese handsaws in your tool chest. A Japanese woodworker would never be without these.

There are some differences between Japanese and Western (European and American) style saws. First, Japanese saws have teeth oriented to cut on the pull stroke. Second, the handle is long like a tennis racquet, as opposed to a pistol grip typical of Western models. Lastly, Japanese saws have a super-thin kerf. In my view, all of these factors give Japanese saws superior performance. The pulling action ensures the blade remains taut and straight when starting a cut. The super-thin blade is really light, and the angle of the handle makes it easy to control the pressure of the blade.

There are different sizes and types of Japanese saw, but two are special: the Ryoba and the mini-Dozuki. The Ryoba is larger, and has teeth on both edges of the blade; coarse teeth for ripping and fine teeth for crosscutting. The length of the blade makes for long pull strokes and therefore fast cutting and you can cross cut a 2 x 4 in seconds. The mini-Dozuki (there is a larger, less nimble full-sized Dozuki as well) has a small sharp hook at the end of the blade for cutting into the center of a panel of wood. It also has a stiffening rib running 3/4 the length of the blade which make it excel at fine joinery like dovetails. In fact, my mini-D was much admired when we did our dove-tail cutting learning experience at Dick Troth's shop last year.

The thin kerf means they make a negligible amount of dust, and super accurate cuts. The saws come with a comfortable, bamboo wrapped wood handle; the Ryoba only costs \$45.00 and the mini Dozuki is less than \$31.00. To make a great thing even better, replacement blades are available when the blades get dull or nicked.

Around the shop, the Ryoba is perfect for finishing stopped cuts on the table saw. I drop the ripping side of the saw into the table saw kerf and finish the cut to the line. The handle and pulling motion make it easy to hold the saw to one side of the wider table saw kerf leaving just a little cleanup with a chisel.

Then, I flip the saw over and crosscut the rest of the waste out. The cutting is fast and accurate. I don't have to get out my jigsaw or fish for extension cords. And, you don't even have to put on your ear protection! *Barry Humphus edited from Wood Magazine.*

## Wood Restoration with Oxalic Acid

Oxalic acid is a very useful material when it comes to furniture restoration, as well as restoring an outdoor deck made with pressure treated wood (such as pine).

Oxalic acid crystals are used in the restoration shop as a tool to bleach out rust stains from woods that contain tannin. When woods that contain tannin come into contact with moisture and iron, such as old nails and screws, a chemical reaction occurs. This reaction causes the surrounding areas of wood to turn black. We've all seen this effect on tops that were nailed down or around steel hinges.

An oxalic acid mixture will do wonders for wood that has been stripped and has that dull, grey and lifeless look. You can use it to bring back the natural color of outdoor decking as well.

Here are tips on how to mix and use this very useful product. You can get oxalic acid crystals at both Lowes and Home Depot. Ask them for deck maintenance products area.

Although oxalic acid is a relatively mild acid, always wear gloves when handling.

Use glass containers in which to mix the acid. Start by filling the jar two thirds full with hot water. Then add the crystals slowly, stirring as you go.

Keep adding crystals while stirring until the crystals begin to gather on the bottom of the jar.

Stop adding the crystals. You now have a saturated solution of oxalic acid that can be stored indefinitely. Just shake it up!

Apply the acid with an old wash cloth or plastic spray bottle making sure to wet the surface completely. If you have very thoroughly mixed and desolved the crystals, you can use a pressure washer with a soap feed but do not allow any undissolved crystals to go into the dispenser as this may clog your pressure sprayer. Also, after using, run fresh water through the washer to clear any residual acid mixture.

Do not bleach only the areas that are discolored. You have to bleach the the entire area like a chest top or a table top. Otherwise it would be very difficult for even an experienced finisher to blend the areas together.

Let the treatment dry and then wet again with water to see the results. Another application may be necessary.

Since this is an acid, it has to be neutralized before any finishing can take place. Flood the surface with clean water and baking soda to neutralize the acid two or three times and leave to dry at least overnight.

When completely dry, sand a small area lightly with 220 paper. If the sanding dust takes your breath away, neutralize again. Never mix oxalic acid with any other bleaches or chemicals. *Barry Humphus.*

## Mitersaw Clean Cuts

Power mitersaws rank second only to tablesaws in woodshop popularity, and behind only circular saws at construction sites. So if you're among the many who regularly use a mitersaw, you'll find these tips will make your sawing safer and easier.

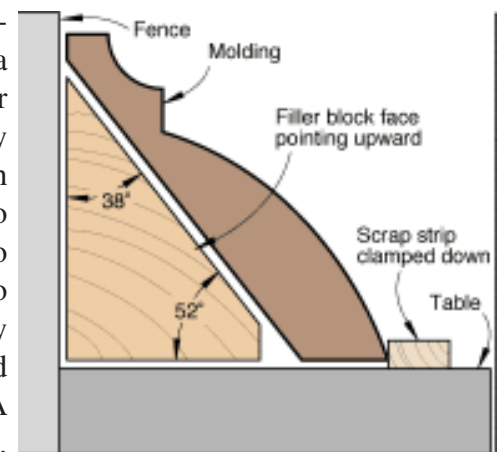
Cut, don't chop. Hurried house framers are particularly guilty of this: physically pushing the blade down into the wood as fast as they can. Of course, a good mitersaw with a sharp blade will cut faster than you can push it down anyway, but don't! All you end up doing is making a lousy cut. And how can you be sure your other hand will always be out of harm's way? Just take your time and let the mitersaw do the work.

Starting your cut when the work isn't flush against the fence and solidly on the table is the surest way I know of to destroy a good piece of wood-and a mitersaw. It can result in broken fences, broken blades, broken or cut upper and lower guards, and if you're lucky, only a general bad attitude for the rest of the day. Before you make a cut on your mitersaw, always make sure you have the board completely on the table and flush against the fence.

Cutting accurate miter angles on crown moldings with a standard (not compound) mitersaw can be one of the hardest trim jobs imaginable. That's because you mount most crown molding at an angle of 38° to the wall. Therefore, you need to hold the molding at this angle when you make the cut-not easy to do. And because there's not solid contact with both the fence and the table, a slip could put you in danger as well as damage the workpiece.

Here's a good way to make those cuts. Simply make a filler block by ripping a 2x4 to a 38° bevel on your tablesaw. Then, attach the filler block to your mitersaw fence with the 38° angle up, as shown in the drawing below. When you place the crown molding upside down against the filler block, the cut will come out perfectly. For even more control, clamp a scrap-wood stop at the base of the molding to prevent any tipping during the cut.

Unfortunately, I've not seen a universal fixture for cutting irregularly shaped wood, such as a dowel. But I do know that the trick to doing it safely is to clamp the work firmly against the fence and on the table. A handscrew will work, even for dowels.



### January Meeting Location

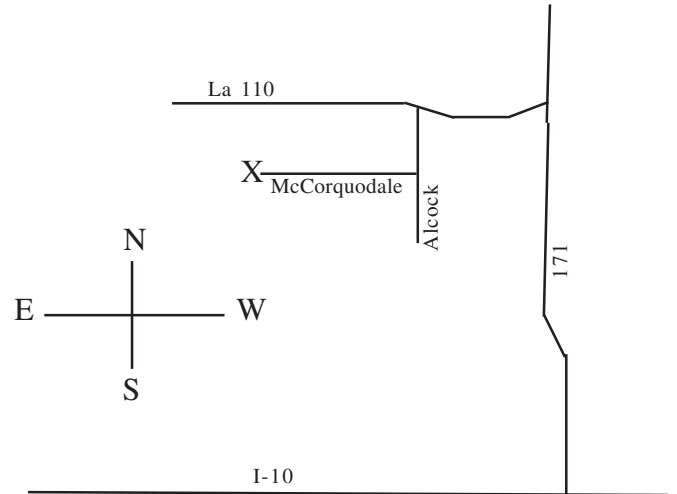
Steve and Helga McCorquodale will host our meeting in January at his work shop and milling operation.

Below are the instructions Steve supplied to get there. The address is 449 McCorquodale Road , Longville, LA 70652. Note that Steve said that if you are using a GPS to get there, the GPS will say that you have arrived but in fact you need to go to the end of the road. See the map at the right.

To get there travel North on US 171 to La 110 and turn East. The first left will be Alcock Rd. Turn left (South) to McCorquodale Rd and then turn right (East) on to McCorquodale. Go to the end of McCorquodale Rd.

If you need further directions, feel free to call Helga or Steve at 337-725-6874.

Not to Scale



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