

John Griffith, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Gary Rock
Steve Thomas, Joe Comeaux

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; John Marcon: 478-0646; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

April Meeting Highlights

As always, we appreciate the use of the Stine's Lake Charles meeting room. Be sure to thank the staff and employees as you check out after the meeting.

We had a couple of guests this month: Ken Tilton (who may become a member) and Ronny Chavin, both of whom are carvers.

Barry Humphus mentioned that a colleague had a finger injury from a hedge trimmer and reminded the group that this time of year, when we are cutting back new growth, we need to focus at all times we are using power tools of any type. Keep safe.

John Griffith started out by showing off the jig he uses to form the sides of the guitars he makes and described how he uses this. He started out using very thin (1/16th inch) wood but found it difficult to form as it kept splitting out. He next used multiple layers of veneer (1/40th inch) but found



this difficult to form due to the glue being squeezed out after steaming. He went back to the 1/16 material when he found a better way to steam the wood before forming. He now uses Titebond III as it is nearly water proof.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux brought us a nice top with a spinning launcher he turned on his Nova Comet 2 lathe (which now has a stand his step son made). Eltee also created a neat jig that mounts on the lathe to measure the thickness of a bowl. Pie Sonnier brought a shrimp trawler (his second one) complete with a working net.

Aaron Andrepont has also been turning using his new Barrcuda 2 four jaw chuck. He turned a small platter, a three level Lazy Susan as well as a spinning top. Aaron also showed a clever hold-down bar used with a long table saw push stick. He asked members about the fine lines he gets on the platter surfaces and it was suggested that he use a turning scraper to remove them.

Ray Kebodeaux built a great decorative box with lid in an American Indian motif from poplar, walnut and mahogany. He left the inside unfinished as he is waiting for the flocking. Ray also had an enhanced drill press chuck tool. This has a nice handle to be able to really tighten down a drill bit.

Bob Pertuit's background is in electronics and using some parts from his parts bin he constructed a small electronic thickness gauge. Eltee's mechanical one must be mounted on a lathe and measures the bottom thickness. Bob's is very small, battery powered and very accurate. What's more, it will measure any wall thickness -- bottoms or sides. Of course it can measure any other relatively thin object as well. Bob has applied for a patent for his tool. John Griffith, who has worked for the U.S. Patent Office, will brief us at a future meeting regarding the process of filing a patent.



While we are using more electronics in woodworking (you can find many interesting designs at hackaday.com and search for woodworking) there are increasingly interesting electronic devices produced specifically for woodworking..Bob's recent invention should prove very helpful to those who do turning and perhaps for many other areas as well.

Ryan Navarra showed a nice hand plane he made that operates like a spoke shave. He also mentioned that we should consider getting more youth involved with woodworking in the area. and there was general agreement with this idea.

Coming Up: Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 A.M. at the Stines Store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles,



Summer Reading

For some of us, the Summer grows too hot to do productive work in our shops. While I have a very small A/C unit and a couple of small fans, it can take hours to cool down enough to stay in the shop long. The alternative may be to stay inside your home and read about woodworking.

“Hand Tool Basics” by Steve Branam is a primer for hand tool use and maintenance walks beginning woodworkers and woodworkers new to hand tool method through all of the most important topics related to this specialized area of the craft. This in depth text will cover tools and equipment from handsaws, chisels and handplanes to workbenches. Complete step-by-step instructions and accompanying photography guide you through the fundamental skills you need. You can get this fine book at Amazon.com for about \$20.

Ron Hocks’ “The Perfect Edge” book on sharpening is a winner. Every woodworker either has or will face the task of sharpening as a part of their hobby or occupation on a nearly daily basis. Some will choose the simplest method to sharpen their tools, while others will look for the superior method for an unparalleled edge. This book includes information to help the simply curious to the seriously involved woodworker, including: what steel is; how it works for us and how to bend and shape it to our needs. Again, it can be ordered from Amazon for about \$20.

David Mathias has an interesting entry with his “Greene & Greene Furniture ebook”. Greene & Greene Furniture blends Asian influences with Arts & Crafts concepts to produce truly unique pieces of functioning art. This book looks closely at the details and influences in the work of Greene & Greene as well as their design philosophy in houses, furniture and decorative arts. The author pulls together disparate influences including the Arts & Crafts movement, Japanese architecture and philosophy, Chinese furniture and an overlooked but crucial element in their work; the environment and topography of California. Included are many new photographs and historical photos to provide context and perspective. It can be found at Amazon for about \$17.

The “Pleasant Hill Shaker Furniture eBook” by Kerry Pierce can lead you in another way. Ann Lee, founder of the Shaker movement, offered this guidance to her followers, “Hands to work and hearts to God”. The furniture of the Pleasant Hill community shows her philosophy brought to life in every piece.

With its beauty and simplicity, Shaker furniture has inspired generations of furniture makers like no other style in the world. This book details the construction and design of some rare and never before seen Shaker furniture created in the village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Painstakingly illustrated with drawings and photos of the furniture, this book reveals the joinery and design secrets that make Shaker furniture timeless. You’ll find full-scale details of the joinery and special details about the furniture as well as a charming history of the village of Pleasant Hill. About \$17 at Amazon.

“On Woodworking: Notes From a Lifetime at the Bench” by Zach Dillinger is a beautifully illustrated collection of short essays, personal experiences, notes, quips, and quotes examines the sublime craft of woodworking, the people and personalities we meet during our craft journey, and the nature of the most important element of woodworking, wood itself. Insightful, sometimes brash, and deeply funny, On Woodworking will not show you what or how to build but it may just help you understand why we build. About \$15 from Amazon.

Tools for Accuracy

Along the way in woodworking, you refine your processes, develop techniques and create a lot of habits over time. Certainly, an important part of working at anything is to work efficiently—you learn quickly that time is an unrecoverable asset. You also learn that you have to work accurately. There are good reasons for this. Precision is not just about pride in your work, it brings serious benefits. If your measurements aren't dead on, somewhere down the road, you can bet that it will come back to bite you with a serious mistake. Please don't ask me how I know this!

Working accurately starts by committing to use accurate measuring tools. After a few early hobbyist mistakes caused by old rulers and measuring tapes that didn't agree, I started seeking out accurate measuring tools and have never looked back. Like every woodworker, I rely on the tools in my shop, but none more so than my measuring tools. Whether you work in hand tools, hybrid tools or use digital tools this information applies to everyone.

First, a caveat: I'm not an engineer nor do I play one on television. There are better educated and experienced opinions on this topic out there so, if inclined, dive deeper if you wish. I am a picky woodworker. Throughout my woodworking hobby, I've depended upon accuracy and repeatability and it's my measuring tools that make it possible. The even higher requirements that come with digital woodworking have driven me to be even more methodical about precision. The approaches for selecting and validating instruments should at least get you off to a good start.

Every woodworker uses tapes and rules. So much so, that we often take them for granted. We shouldn't. If you're not using accurate measuring tools, or have been lucky so far, that's when big problems start to happen. Now, luck might work in some woodworker's favor, but I don't trust any mark, position or setup unless I know that the measurements they're based on are made in a consistent manner using accurate instruments. Given the choice between luck and accuracy, I'll take accuracy every time.

Getting to a high level of trust is not so simple. The first step is finding accurate tools you can rely on. Like many woodworking processes or techniques, there are different ways to go about this. Rather than do this in a grand manner and consume vast quantities of time and energy to test everything in sight, I prefer to keep the process simple and direct. So, here's how I qualify and select my measuring instruments.

When it comes to measuring tools, I take the reference approach. I start with a set of high accuracy squares and rules and use them to verify all my other measuring tools

and for tool setup. When I began woodworking as a necessity for furniture in my college apartment, I did what a lot of woodworkers do: I turned to machinist tools with a solid reputation. I started with a few, key Starrett tools; 12" and 6" combination squares. The 12" was over \$50 and the 6" is around \$20 (1977 dollars). Yes, they are more these days but whether you're a professional or amateur, I'm here to tell you that they're worth every penny. Since I've used them for over 40 years, they've also proven to be an excellent investment. No, those cheap ones you can buy at your neighborhood home center are not the same. That small Starrett square has been living in my shop since 1977. The larger one lives on my workbench. I depend on these tools every day I do woodworking.

If you're unfamiliar with the brand, Starrett has a well-earned reputation for accurate, well-made measuring instruments. A lot of engineers and machinist rely on this company's rules and squares. There are a few other alternatives that equal or come very close to Starrett's quality for less cost. I think it's worth paying extra for a known result, but if cost is critical, check into Product Engineering Corporation (PEC) rules and combination squares. Besides tools branded under their own name, they make most of the rules and squares for many well-known names throughout the woodworking world. On an even lower budget? Here's a trick: look for blemishes online from a trusted source. If a rule has an imperfect finish, but no technical flaws, it's still an accurate tool.

It's important to qualify your measuring tools, test and establish standards in your shop. You can't just randomly rely on various measuring tools around your shop and hope for the best. You have to test them. Mixing precise tools and imprecise tools around will drive you crazy. Every tool and setup has to agree with each other. That's why standardizing is critical to every shop. The only way to do that is to start with a few high-quality tools, use them as your standards and test your other tools against them.

For measuring — with a few new additions I'll get into later, I use my Starrett squares and rulers as standard setters. Makes sense. Using my highest quality and trusted tools, I qualify and regularly test every measuring tool I that I use in the shop. Testing is particularly important for measuring tapes, squares, straight edges, and rulers as these tools take abuse in day-to-day use and can become less accurate over time. Having a standard makes the process easy. You just need a few high-quality instruments, a process and to develop the habit of testing regularly.

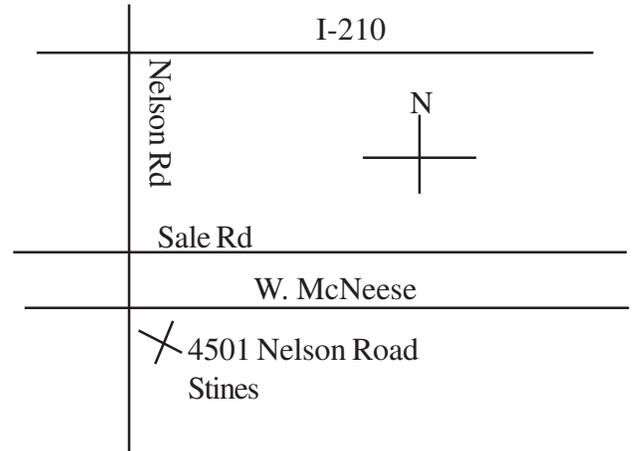
Next month, I'll explain my process for qualifying tape measures. Barry Humphus

May Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. Please enter the store and go to the back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go South on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going from I-10 or I-210 and turn into the parking lot. Go to the back of the main entrance to the very back to the meeting room to find us.

Please take an opportunity to explore Stines before you leave to find the items for your shop or home that you may need. As always, thank the folks at Stines as you check out.



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