

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.

June Meeting Highlights

This was our second time this year at Stines and like the first, they were great. Like some members, I did some shopping right after the meeting. Thanks to the folks at Stine's.

We were reminded that The Works of Men exhibit begins July 9 through August 5th at the Sulphur Museum. If you need further information, feel to contact Eric Manuel at 527-0357. Note that our members will have items on display and for sale during the event from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. weekdays and 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. on Saturdays.



Steve Thomas reminded us that there are lots of safety information on YouTube.com about both hand and power tools. Please take the opportunity to view some of these and be safe.

Steve also brought a wonderful old hand plane -- a BB brand that is similar to the Stanley smoothing plane and discussed it's use. Having planed (with George Kuffel) a



large dining table (now at our beach house) by hand, I really appreciated Steve's discussion.

Steve asked that members try to bring photos/prints of large items to see rather than on your phone as these are easier to see. A tablet is fine if you are willing to pass it about.

For Show and Tell, Bob Thibodeaux brought us an

interesting tool - a Rockwell Versacut and told how he uses this nice tool. Bob also had and uses a wonderful cane built by Jimmy Everett. Joe Comeaux showed off some of his Christmas gifts he's made that include great turned pens finished in CA glue. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux brought us one of his recent CnC designs -- a desk sign. Eltee also had a nice lidded box of several woods.

J.W. Anderson had one of his lovely cutting boards while McNeese professor John Griffith did what he called a surfing box with a lid of walnut and maple finished with poly. Pie Sonnier overwhelmed us with a motorcycle with articulated suspension which was just amazing. Pie's vehicles just show many other ideas, no matter how wonderful, make us proud of what we do and why.

Dustin Guidry did his first turning as he has just got a lathe -- actually an old lathe, a Rockwell/Delta. A nice turning for all of us. Bill Levy did a great scrawl work bass with a great camo background. Bill noted that he has a DeWalt scroll aw for sale as well.

Steve Thomas had a splated pecan bowl of spalted wood with a difficult poly finish he said. Steve also had a black gum solid bowl with a butcher block finish. So Steve Thomas did a segmented bowl of 399 pieces with a great a La Fleur at the bottom of the bowl in mahogany, oak, ash and a natural edge. Steve also did a nice black bowl with glitter finish.

Darren Hood had an ornamental pear piece and Gary Rock brought us a few acorn bird turnings in walnut and elm plus sycamore with lovely woven edges, hand carved and burned. Rock also had some Beads of Courage items for child cancer victims that he will deliver to the group in Waco later in the year. Finally, Don Elfert had a nice BBQ table he built and a tapering jig a well. Eltee won the drawing for his work.

Note that we are meeting at Stines again this month as J.W. Anderson has a conflict and cannot host our meeting in July.

This Month: Saturday, July 11 at 9:00 A.M. in the meeting Room at Stine's on Nelson Road

When That Little Voice Speaks to You

When you hear that voice in the back of your head saying, "this isn't right," listen to it and rethink the operation. Ask yourself WHY. Rehearse an unfamiliar cut first, without any spinning steel. If you feel uncomfortable with it or it looks not quite right, think it through then jig-up to make it safer, or find another way.

Never put your body directly in line with the blade when making rip cuts at the table saw: If the board kicks back, it's coming straight at you. Also, never place your pushing hand in direct line with the cutting motion, regardless of the tool. Whether the fence is on the left or right of the blade, stand to the side of the blade opposite the fence--body out of line with the cut.

When not in use or during blade changes, unplug power tools or, if the tool has one, remove the safety tab from the on/off switch. This prevents both you and shop visitors (young and old) from accidentally turning on a tool. The same principle applies to pneumatic tools: When adding fasteners to a nailer, always disconnect the air hose first. Unless you can see the loose plug free of the outlet or the yellow safety tab absent from the switch, assume the tool's ready to go.

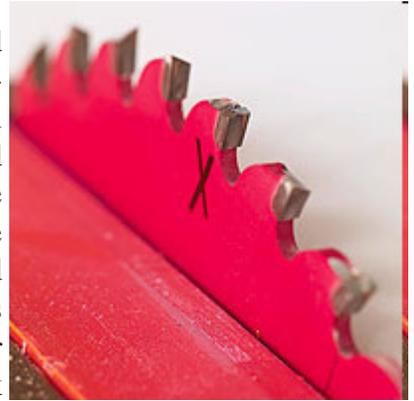
Get comfortable, but not too comfortable, with your tools. When a project requires repeated cuts for identical parts -- making the same cut 20 times -- your mind can wander. Stay focused. Never walk away from a tool when it's running and always wait for the blade to come to a complete stop before reaching for cut-offs near the blade. Move finished pieces off your machine, and take a break if you get tired, bored with repetitive cuts, or even hungry.

Use pushsticks designed with plenty of surface area in contact with the workpiece; they hold the board down while keeping your hand several inches from the blade. A pushstick doesn't have to be pretty, complicated, or expensive -- a shop-made one can consist of just scrap 2x4 with an MDF heel. Keep a pushstick at each tool station and always within easy reach.

If your shop has a layer of sawdust as thick as urethane on a gym floor, that dust presents a slipping hazard. Sweep it up. Also, dispose or store loose cutoffs and tools not in use. Clear off machines before use and make sure there's nothing that may shift into your cutting path or the blade during the machine's operation. Don't just chuck your scrap in a pile in the corner. Keep your floors cleaner and pieces separated with a cutoff bin.

Check every tool before use, even if you were the last to use it: Look for debris near the cutterhead or blade

and any loose or misaligned parts that could become projectiles when you turn the tool on. Keep blades sharp and clean: Forcing a workpiece through a dull and dirty blade increases the risk of a hand slipping (and may cause burns and tearout on your workpiece, as well). Check blades for broken or loose teeth like the one marked here. Such damage can create a dangerous imbalance in the blade.



Don't Get Burned

You've heard plenty about protecting yourself from spinning blades or bits above. But what about protecting your shop - even when you're not around? A fire can wipe out an extensive investment in tools and materials. If your shop is close to or part of your home, a blaze can even threaten you and your family. Follow these simple tips to avoid a disaster.

Cut back on the amount of finishes, solvents, and other flammable materials you keep on hand. This reduces a ready -- and volatile -- fuel source should a fire break out. Buy small quantities, keep them in the original containers, and use up old finishes on shop projects. Properly dispose of materials you haven't used in years.

Smoke detectors protect you inside your home, but dust in a shop can set them off. Instead, install a heat detector (above door) with both rate-of-rise (sounds an alarm if the temperature climbs too quickly) and fixed-temperature detectors (alerts you if a set temperature is exceeded). A good one costs about \$50 at Fire Safety in Lake Charles home centers and online. Keep a fire extinguisher near each exit so you can fight a fire and still have an escape route. An extinguisher with an ABC rating fights fires in paper and wood (A), gasoline and other combustible liquids (B), and electrical components (C).

Repair or replace damaged power cords on tools. When you need an extension cord, choose the proper size: a 12- or 14-gauge cord for benchtop and power hand tools. Avoid placing cords where they will be stepped on or pinched. If you rely on power strips or multi-taps to make one receptacle do the work of several, bite the bullet and add circuits to your shop.

Boy Scouts use wood shavings, paper, and sticks to light a fire. Sound like a corner of your shop? Clean up the kindling and keep combustible material away from heaters, stoves, appliances with pilot lights, and bench grinders that throw sparks. Continues on Page 3.

Safety Continues . . .

Finally, oils in finishes create heat as they cure. Concentrate that heat in a crumpled-up rag or paper towel and it can spontaneously burst into flames. Always lay finish rags and towels flat on the floor or draped over the edge of a bench to dry thoroughly before disposing of them.

Router Safely

The router table is a great place to machine easy-to-manage, midsize pieces and narrow moldings. With the router fixed into a tabletop, you can focus your attention on the workpiece instead of the tool. And you always should "take it to the table" whenever you work with pieces so small that you wouldn't be able to see or grasp them beneath the base of a handheld router.

But what about oversize tasks, such as rounding over the edges of a dining-room tabletop? That's when you take a handheld router to the workpiece. Perched on the edge of a workpiece, a handheld router can get tippy; but you can counter that. Simply rotate the router so the handles run *perpendicular*, not parallel, to the workpiece edge, and use one hand to exert pressure squarely over the workpiece while merely moving the router with the other.

Before routing freehand or on the table, ask yourself which direction everything needs to move. To cut with more control and less chatter, rout so that the bit's cutting edges meet the wood head-on. (In the reverse, a technique known as climb-cutting, the cutting edges tend to ride along the workpiece, like wheels on a car, rather than digging in and cutting. This might cause the router to jerk away from you.)

So how do you know which direction is which? In a handheld router, the bit spins clockwise when viewed from above, so move the router counterclockwise when routing outside edges. For inside cuts, rout clockwise. When your router is mounted underneath a table, the bit spins counterclockwise, so always feed workpieces from right to left.

Although you can't typically use a fence when routing irregular shapes on a router table, you still need a way to control the workpiece as you begin your cut. So install a removable starting pin in your router table -- the closer to the bit the better -- and use it as a fulcrum to ease the workpiece against the whirling cutter, as shown at right. After making contact with the bit's guide bearing, you no longer need to brace against the starting pin.

You can make your own pin by cutting the head off a bolt and threading the shaft into a hole tapped into your router table or insert. Or clamp a pointed piece of scrap to your router table to act as a pivot point to start the cut.

No matter what you're routing, you need to maintain

a firm hold on the workpiece while keeping your fingers in the clear. That proves especially difficult, though, with tiny pieces. For safer, cleaner cuts, follow these three steps:

First, always use a router table with the smallest reducer ring that fits the bit.

Second, close up the bit opening in the fence as much as possible or create a zero-clearance sacrificial fence from scrap stock or MDF.

Finally, keep a good hold on the workpiece by locking it into a handscrew clamp. It grips small, irregular shapes; it keeps your hands at a safe distance; and its wooden jaws won't cause damage if they contact the router bit.

Protect your hearing -- please. No single hearing protection device delivers by itself great protection against dangerous sound levels than disposable foam plugs. When inserted correctly into the ear canal, these inexpensive dandies reduce noise levels by about 35 to 45 decibels. And you can get even greater protection by wearing them in conjunction with a good pair of muff-style protectors. The downside of muff protectors is the place where we live. In an un-airconditioned shop, they get mighty hot to wear.

To learn how to properly insert the foam plugs, download the free PDF below from Elliott Berger, senior scientist at E-A-R/Aearo Technologies, and a leading authority on hearing protection. See: <http://images.meredith.com/wood/pdf/Foam-plug-fitting.pdf>

One more thing: dress for safety. Our Eyes: protect your eyes with goggles or safety glasses equipped with side shields when using woodworking power tools. Full-face shields give the utmost protection using a table saw, router or a lathe.

For sanding operations, wear a dust mask that makes a tight seal around the nose and mouth. If you are finishing, it is best if you are wearing a chemical filter containing activated charcoal.

As mentioned above your ears always need hearing protection, such as muffs or ear plugs, when tools are running.

For your clothing roll long sleeves above the elbow or wear a short-sleeved shirt. Long hair should be tucked under a cap.

For your personal accessories, remove all jewelry, such as wristwatches, bracelets, or large rings. Do not wear ties or loose clothing that may catch in moving parts.

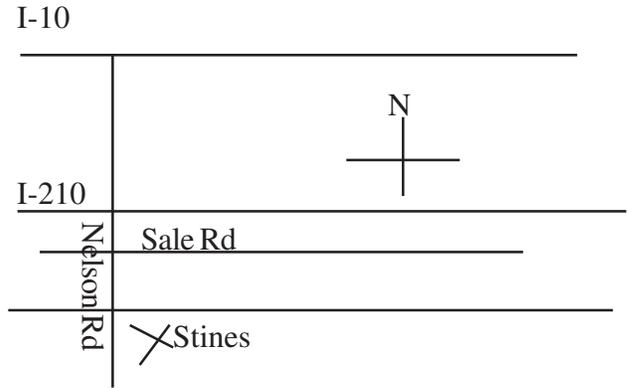
What you wear on your feet is also important. Your shoes prevent slipping so consider wearing shoes with soft soles such as some rubbery product. Running or walking shoes work well. *Barry Humphus*

July Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road, this May, June and now at the July meeting. Please enter the store and go to the very back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go East on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going East 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.



July 2015