

Steve Thomas, President
Sandy Kramer, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

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

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 Truth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

January Meeting Highlights

Steve & Helga McCorquodale hosted the meeting this month and it is always a delight to be at their place. Thanks to them both.

Steve Thomas discussed hearing protection during his safety talk. Steve showed everyone a couple types of hearing protection and discussed the advantages of each. Head set types are easy to put on and remove and provide adequate protection from most shop tool noise. The foam insert type are even better but take time to insert into the ear, and if not done correctly are not as effective.

The generally accepted standard to minimize hearing risk is based on an exposure to 85 dBA for a maximum limit of eight hours per day. Most belt sanders run in the lower to upper 90 dBA range. Circular saws and surface planers run in the low to mid 100 dBA range. Exposure at these levels does not take long to cause permanent hearing loss.

Steve brought a carpenters square and described how to true one. Using a center punch, hit the outside corner of the square to close the frame together. Hit the inside corner of the square to expand the frame. This will work if the square out just a little. If it's out a lot your probably better off buying a new square.

Demonstrated a drill bit depth stop made from a wood dowel. Example; Drill out the center of a 1/2" wood dowel with a 1/4" drill bit. Make the dowel section a length so that the drill bit, when mounted in the drill, protrudes beyond the dowel to the desired hole depth. This jig prevents the

area around the hole from being damaged when the drill bottoms out.

Showed a shop made sandpaper cutter that can be used to cut sheet sandpaper for hand sanders. The design prevents accidental cuts to the fingers and makes perfectly straight cuts in the paper.



Eltee Thibodeaux brought a scroll sawn 3D cross made of ash. The unique design allowed the center of the cross to expand outward. Pie Sonnier made another of his exquisite model cars. This one was a Duesenburg. Made from cherry, walnut, purple heart, Ebony.

Joe Comeaux Made a shelf clock made from ash with a maple stain. Joe also brought 2 bullet pens made from deer antler and 2 seam rippers. Ray Kebodeaux brought 2 shoulder planes that he made from walnut and ironwood. The blades were made from old planer knives. Ray explained how he tempered the blades for durability.

Sandy Kramer made a scroll sawn 3D expanding Cross from poplar. It was the same cross that Eltee made except Sandy used a different method of scrolling method but the results were very similar. Sandy also made 2 bowls by stacking rings cut on the scroll saw. These were stained and finished with "Quick 15" poly. She also made a scroll sawn picture of the last supper. Made from cedar and cypress and finished with Quick 15 poly.

Ron Kramer brought a picture of a cedar chest he recently completed. Made from cedar plywood, cedar and given a red wood stain.

Steve Thomas brought a picture of an entertainment center he recently completed. Made from ash and ash plywood.

Pie Sonnier won the show and tell gift card for Stiens. The bring back gift from Joe Comeaux was the clock he made. It was won by J.W. Anderson (again!).

Other Topics: The Work Sharp tool was returned by John Shipman. John is now using the Drill doctor bit sharpener. The Work Sharp was passed on to Ray Kebodeaux. More photos on the next page.

Just at press time, we learned of the passing of Ann Thibodeaux, the 44 year companion of Eltee. Please keep Eltee and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Comming Up . . . Saturday, February 9, 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Steve Thomas. First time we are there and it should be great.



Ray Kebodeaux brought beautiful shoulder planes.



Steve Thomas: Entertainment center: ash.



Pie Sonnier Dusenber: cherry, walnut, purple heart, and ebony.



Sandy Kramer: Ring bowls.



Sandy Kramer: Last supper, scrollwork.

Selecting Sheet Goods

Standard Particle board is wood shredded into tiny chips (essentially sawdust, often from waste wood), combined with adhesives, and then heated and compressed to form sheets. PBU — for floor underlayment is the most common and the cheapest. M-S, M-1, M-2, M-3 industrial grades are best for making shelving and countertops. Particleboard cuts easily and is fairly stable. But, it has low stiffness, heavy, holds fasteners poorly and not moisture resistant.

Melamine particleboard is faced with paper impregnated with melamine resin, a type of plastic and the paper on low-cost types is simply adhered. Higher-cost sheets are thermally fused. It is great for making cabinet carcasses because it wipes clean easily. Use it for shop fixtures or to make an economical router-table tops. It is inexpensive and readily available in a variety of colors and patterns. Also available with kraft paper or real-wood veneer on one face. Melamine is not moisture resistant, heavy, edges chip easily when cutting unless you use blade designed for cutting laminates.

Hardboard is ground wood pulp combined with resins and pressed into sheets. It may be smooth on one or both faces. Excellent for shop fixtures and jigs (especially the variety with two smooth faces) and benchtops. Use perforated hardboard for hanging tools. It's readily available, easy to cut, relatively stable, available with two smooth sides or one,

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takes paint well. Standard and Service grades are susceptible to moisture, you can't sand the faces, it's flexible, edges are easily damaged and holds fasteners poorly.

MDF is cellulose fibers combined with synthetic resin and formed under heat and pressure. Excellent for shop jigs and fixtures, cabinets, painted projects, molding and millwork, furniture, and as a substrate under veneer and plastic laminate. Flat, no face or core voids, consistent thickness, glues easily, has machine-able edges. However, it is very heavy (100 lbs. per sheet in MD grade; low-density version (LD) weighs approximately 60 lbs.), standard wood screws hold poorly.

Softwood plywood is face-glued layers of thin softwood veneer. It's good for outdoor projects (exterior rated), carpentry and construction, shop cabinets, substrates, underlayment for floors and countertops. You can also get treated if it will be in contact with moisture. It's cheaper than hardwood plywood, readily available, face veneers can have a nice appearance in higher grades. Yet it is built more for performance than appearance; thick plies reduce stiffness; interior plies may have voids, face veneers are often patched.

MDF/HDF Overlay plywood is an exterior-rated softwood plywood covered on both faces with resin-impregnated fiber (paper). It's used extensively for highway signs, great for outdoor projects, siding, painted projects, watercraft, cabinets, shop fixtures, and concrete forms. While resistant to weather and water, flat, smooth, the surface is easily paintable, machines easily, and is very durable. But it is not widely available and quite heavy.

Hardwood plywood consist of veneers (softwood or hardwood) glued in layers with alternating grain, and covered with a hardwood veneer. It is the traditional sheet good of choice for everything from furniture and cabinets to wall paneling and boxes. Note that it comes in very many grades and thickness. It is more stable and less expensive than solid wood, widely available, made in a variety of species, and with many choices for veneer matching on faces. Thick sheets are heavy, exposed ply edges may mean you'll have to band with solid wood and the thin face veneers (1/32") are easy to sand through and damage.

Baltic and Finnish plywood is made from thin (1/16"), void-free birch veneers. Finnish birch is like Baltic, but is made with exterior adhesive for outdoor use. It is used to create shop jigs and fixtures, cabinets, drawer sides, furniture, and as a substrate. It is generally sold in millimeter thicknesses. While there are no standardized grades, it is typically manufactured with void-free plies and face veneers carrying a grade of B or better. It is stiff, stable and has consistent thickness, no voids, nice-looking edges and holds screws. Sometimes, it is hard to find, costly, has an odd (60x60") size sheet and available only with birch face.

Appleply plywood is an American version of Baltic birch with alder and birch core plies and quality veneer faces. The birch face is standard and other woods are available. It has the same uses as Baltic above, plus is useful for applications where a fine-hardwood face veneer is needed. There are no standardized grades, but is manufactured with void-free plies and face veneers carrying a grade of B or better. It is stiff, stable, void-free, with a nice-looking edge, holds screws and offers a variety of face veneers. However, it can be difficult to find, costly, and generally requires a large order to get optional veneers.

Bendable plywood is basically a thin veneered plywood that you can purchase and apply to a surface of choice. It is a plywood with a single face veneer and (sometimes) core plies with all grain running perpendicular to face to allow cross-grain bending. It is used mostly as a substrate for building cabinets, etc., with rounded corners. Sheets with clear face veneers are suitable for furniture. Sizes between 1/8" and 3/8" are common, though thicker sheets are produced and sold in 4x8' sheets. It is able to conform to tight radii without splitting or cracking with no need for kerf-bending or steaming. The flexibility allows radiused corners and decorative shapes. It is not designed for structural use, quality of face veneer varies greatly.

Hardwood veneer is something of a specialty item and generally has to be ordered. However, it can be applied in beautiful patterns (though requires skill and practice to do well). It is very thin (64th to 32nd inch) and easily damaged while sanding. *Barry Humphus.*

Annual dues are due Folks - don't forget!

February Meeting Location

Steve Thomas will be our host this month at his shop and it will be the first time we've met there.

Steve provides the following directions:

“To get to my place take North Perkins Ferry Rd. off route 378 in Moss Bluff. Follow North Perkins Ferry about 1 mile and turn left on to Heard Road. My house is on the right side of the street. If it's not too wet, members should be able to park behind my shop.”

The address is 1834 Heard Rd., Lake Charles, La 70611 in Moss Bluff. If you need further directions, please give him a call at 337-302-8296.

