

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.

September Meeting Highlights

Our meetings have been at the wonderful Stines location on Nelson Road lately and it is a great place to meet. We always appreciate the opportunity to meet at this location. Be sure to shop as you leave the meeting.

Ted Sachs was a guest this month and he does some wonderful pen turning. Ray Kibodeaux announced that he would have a large yard sale but invited members to do an early view of the tools and other items for sale. Should he have anything left, give him a call at 583-2378.

For safety, several folks had some experiences and advice. Bubba Cheramie mentioned that you really need light during your projects. For example. Bubba did not have quite enough during a table saw operation. Make certain that the saw is completely stopped. Steve Thomas mentioned that as we grow older, we need more light for fine viewing.

Bill Levy also mentioned issues with kick back on a planner with using hard wood and Steve Thomas eminded us to keep our nice rulers out of the blades that may be turning as he lost a nice stainless ruler by not watching closely.

Steve also mentioned that you check your tape measures against a good know reference. Apparently, this does not mean a more expensive tape will be more accurate as the Stanley he brought was less accurate than a non-name one he purchased at Harbor Freight. besides checking your tape, make sure you use the same one throughout your project as if it is off, at least the measurements will be consistent. Steve said that fine pencil lines are also a good technique in that the standard carpenter pencil cannot give you accurate lines. Pencil lines can be easily erased with an art gum eraser which you can get at Michaels in Lake Charles.

For Show and Tell, Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux was up with a Router Workshop design toy that was a golf ball inside a small wood structure. The trick to getting the ball inside is to use wet heat to expand the wood slightly.

John Griffin continues to explore box making with a description on how his latest box was made. J.W. Anderson brought a great cutting board made of black walnut and another wood that was likely Gaboon white ebony.

I believe it was Mike Dupuis who brought a nice white oak bowl with a natural edge finished in wipe-on poly.

He also had a spalted magnolia bowl with a walnut bottom (the old blow-out problem!). Bubba Cheramie showed us photos of an add-on kitchen cabinet nicely matching his existing cabinets.

Jack Steggal is in competition with Pie Sonnier as Jack showed a nice earth mover built for a son that is a heavy equipment operator. Instead of natural wood finishes, he was able to obtain some actual Caterpillar touch-up paint to make the item look very real. The peice was walnut, maple, made from a plan.

Don Elfert is known for the efficiency he uses for his wooden items. I believe that if Don found a tooth pick, he could incorporate it successfully into a project. This month he brought a very fine domino set complete with a nice box. Don described how he found just the correct wire size drill to match the tiny dowls used to make the dots on the dominos. Both Poussons and Grangers carry wire size twist drill bits. Don of course had both the AutoCad drawings of his work plus the jigs and described how they were used.

Bill Levy showed a nice scroll saw piece of a horse drawn stage coach in birch plywood plus an old mill painted by Mrs. Levy. Darren Menard showed a natural edge Bradford pear bowl plus one of pecan and another of sycamore. He did a Hut finish with tung oil. The wood came from Tuten Park trimmings Steve Thomas brought one of his recent large kaleidoscopes complete with a geared turning crank.

Gary Rock brought a work he called Suspension that consisted of a hollow form with finial lid constructed of birch ply, cypress and finished with Danish oil and metal paint. The piece was one of the fetured items of art at the Historic City Hall during the recent Gallery Promenade weekend. His work was part of the advertising peice that the City of Lake Charles sent out to members of the Arts and Humanities Council. Gary also had neat Christmas decorations.

Steve Thomas sent out an email saying that Rudy Antilley, formerly of the Southeast Texas Woodworkers is selling his tools. Contact Rudy at 409-755-4848 or email him at jra34@sbcglobal.net if you have an interest.

Coming Up . . . 9:00 A.M. October 10 at the Stines store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles. Thanks Stine Family!



Above: Mike Dupis' Caterpillar, Don Elfert's Dominos with box and Steve Thomas' Big Red Bowl.

Right: Steve Thomas' Kaleiscope, Gary Rock's Suspension iyem and Christmas ornaments.

Understanding Shop (& Other) Lighting

Member Bubba Cheramie reported at our last meeting that it was the lack of proper lighting that caused him a bit of a scare. Below we have outlined some ideas about lighting your shop and other places about your home.

Ambient lighting is general lighting in a room for walking around, conversation and identifying objects. In contrast, task lighting provides higher light levels in a specific area for performing visual tasks, such as reading, sewing, cutting and using tools. Daylight from windows and skylights can also provide ambient lighting. Due to the high light levels, some people also use daylight or direct sunlight for visual tasks such as mending, fine work or working on small items.

Interior surfaces contribute to good lighting as well. Lighter colors on ceilings and walls will reflect more light within a space. Dark colors absorb the light and should only be used on moldings or small areas. To better control glare, ceilings and walls should also have a flat finish paint or general areas and a matte finish for kitchens and bathrooms. A flat finish works well for shops as well. Next time you are in George Kuffel's shop, just look up. In fact, many successful lighting situations combine those above.

You need to consider higher levels of light because normal age related changes within the eye restrict the light coming in and absorb the light -- more light is needed to compensate. You also need glare-free light because light scatters within the eye (particularly as you get older) causing an increased sensitivity to glare and the loss of the ability to see subtle details at lower light levels.

Best is lighting that helps you distinguish colors. The lens of the eye yellows with age, so proper lighting can help compensate. A very white light works best with fine or small work such as over your work bench. Consider LED task lighting in these instances.

Light fixtures that do not flicker or hum, such as the problems caused by fluorescent lights that use magnetic ballasts can be an issue. Fluorescent fixtures with high-frequency electronic ballasts do not have these problems.

If you have a variable speed tool, such as a skill saw, lower the speed to what may seem a crawl and find the sweet spot where the blade seems to stop (yet is still running). This shows that the fluorescent lighting you have uses magnetic ballasts.

In other words, the frequency of the fluorescent light going off and on (your eyes cannot detect this) matches the frequency of the blade moving. The blade will seem to stop but it is in fact is still running at 60 cycles per second and this is called a stroboscopic artefact.

But there is much more to proper lighting, particularly in your home. For example typical porch lights with clear glass and small bright light bulbs can cause glare and make it impossible to see steps or level changes. Pathway lights should be provided between parking areas, or the garage, and the entry to your home. The general entry area should be lighted to eliminate dark corners and shadows from shrubbery. Energy-efficient long life bulbs and diffusing lenses are most effective. Automatic controls utilizing photocells and/or motion sensors to turn lights on at the onset of darkness will guarantee the light will always be on when needed. For example, if you drive up my driveway at night, you will be well lighted by automatic sensors turning on lights as you go.

A single light source mounted at the head of the stairs may not be adequate to light the entire flight. Concealed rope-lights attached to the underside of the stair rail, or solar powered or electrically powered step lights will provide additional light on stair treads. At our beach house we at least have a bright light at the beginning of the stairs and should likely add a rope light going up the stairs as well.

Have you tried to find a friend's home and found it nearly impossible to read the numbers on the front of the house? Large and lighted house numbers that are white against a dark background will easily solve this problem.

If you've lived in your home for a number of years, chances are good that the lighting hasn't changed much since the house was built. You probably have incandescent fixtures, the ones that take the standard light bulbs we're all used to. Do you know that most of the energy from those bulbs goes into heat while only approximately 10% goes to light, which results in higher operating costs?

Some simple modifications, such as switching to fluorescent bulbs will also help to reduce your utility bills. Today's fluorescent or LED light technology is far superior to earlier versions - no flicker, hum and good color.

Take a moment to look around each room. If budget allows, consider adding skylights to the living room, kitchen or shop area. This is a very effective and efficient way to balance the daylight from windows.

While making a special place for hobbies or shops, one of the things people look forward to when they retire is being able to spend more time pursuing their hobbies. General shop lighting with additional task lighting may be required in these areas, depending upon the tools being used. It's very important that fluorescent fixtures have electronic ballast to prevent a strobe effect. Magnetic ballast might make a rotating blade appear to be stationary. Light this place is critical to comfortable and safe operations. Do it.

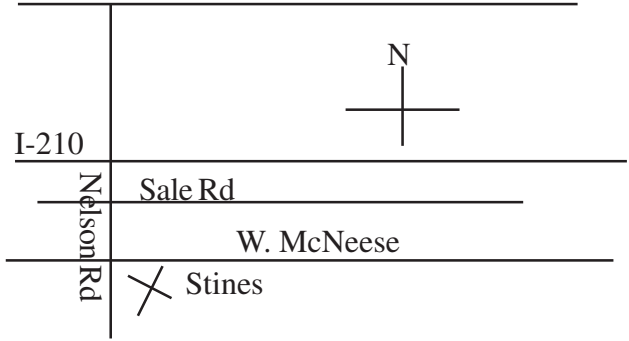
October Meeting Location

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.

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Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.
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