

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.

May Meeting Highlights

Stine Home & Yard on Nelson Rd. was our meeting place in May and we certainly appreciate the opportunity and convenience of having such a friendly place to meet. I know several of us got to shop after the meeting.

The safety discussion by Steve Thomas involved showing a Lancelot Carver from King Arthur's Tools and talking about its proper use. The tool itself is basically a hand-held grinder unit with a unique cutting head. The head comes in 3-1/2 and 4 inch in diameter and can be fitted with 14, 22 or 44 tooth cutters. The smaller the number, the more aggressive the cut. The head consists of a disk surrounded by what amounts to a chain saw chain. The teeth can be resharpened just like the ones on a chain saw. Harbor Freight sells a similar unit for about \$30. Different cutter heads can be obtained from many sources.

While not as aggressive as a chain saw, care must be taken when using this tool. Obviously keep your soft parts clear of the cutting head, unplugging the unit when changing cutters and wearing PPE is a must.

Steve Thomas started off Show & Tell with a carved pecan bowl with some 10 coats of wipe-on poly. Joe Comeaux showed some lovely inlaid turned pens. Joe described the careful operation keeping all of the tiny parts together prior to their glue-up. Steve also talked about some of the software he uses to do segmented bowls.

Bubba Cherime showed photos of a very nice TV cabinet for his deck area made of baltic birch. Ronnie Kramer brought us a great retro clock of walnut plus purple heart finished with tung oil wipe-on and a terrific cutting cheese cutting board of purple heart

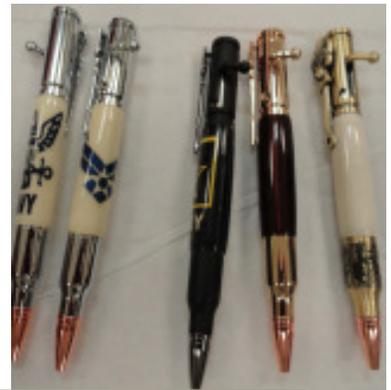
and litmus wood. Ronnie said that the clock mech can be had at klockit.com.

Ray Kebodeaux always delights and this time has

done a salt bowl that was band sawed of mahogany and walnut.

Gary Rock does such wonderfully creative work and today was no exception with a poplar item using aniline dye, glitter and brass with some 10 coats of wipe-on poly. Beautiful work as always.

New members included Steve and Cindy Journey of Lake Charles and we certainly welcome them to the



Lake Charles Woodworkers Club.

Bubba Ceramie won the Show and Tell card prize for his fine work this month.

Steve Thomas reminded us that the next meeting will also be at the Stine Nelson Road location in the same wonderful meeting room of their location.

Coming up . . . Saturday, June 13, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. at the wonderful Meeting Room in the Stine's Nelson Road facility in Lake Charles. When the meeting is over, please feel free to shop at the Stine store.



Summer Opportunities -- Circular Saws

OK, it is Summer and you need to get to work on many things that we need to do. Let us start with some tools we use outside (and sometimes inside).

For the price (about \$130) the Rockwell VersaSaw Mini Circular saw with Laser is a real gem. The weight is fantastic compared to my heavy Porter Cable circular saw, making the Versacut the new go-to power saw. It handles just about everything a circular saw will do, and will do it faster and much quieter (it is only as loud as a Dremel tool, maybe even quieter). You can easily hold it in one hand and the laser switch is convenient for you to hit with your thumb. Just followed the red line and you will have a nice straight smooth cut. Speaking of smooth, the kerf is small and the stock wood blade will produce a cut that is ten times smoother than standard circular saw, even in 1/2" OSB.



The few downsides to this tool are as follows: the requirement to use 2 allen wrenches to change the blade. I'm sure you may lose at least one or the special nut that holds the blade on. That whole process just seems strange, but it doesn't make you want to use the tool any less. More of a minor annoyance. Also, the fact that the laser is battery powered and not tied into the tool's power cord is a bit irritating. The laser uses button batteries so it's not terrible to replace them, but again, just a minor design flaw.

The depth cutting gauge on the Versacut is pretty nice and will help a lot when cutting to different depths or different materials. However, for people new to the saw, it is a bit strange feeling to use at first. Once you figure out the correct pressure it takes to push the saw down and forward at the same time, it's not bad at all.

It has a guide that fits into the saw, It should work exactly as promised. Everything about this saw feels very and solid and well made.



The Festool TS 55 has redefined the standards for circular saws. A host of refinements were incorporated to create a saw that is lighter, easier to handle, and more accurate than traditional saws. MMC electronics, FastFix blade changes, retractable spring-loaded riving knife, integrated dust extraction, and triple motor bearings all add up to unsurpassed quality and usability.

The 55 mm cutting depth, gives you almost 2" of

cutting capacity when used with the guide rail. The plunge action allows you to make precision cut outs on wood surfaces and flooring. With so many great features, we challenge you to find a smoother cutting, stronger running, and more accurate option in a saw this size. The TS 55 has redefined the standards for circular saws. A host of refinements were incorporated to create a saw that is lighter, easier to handle, and more accurate than traditional saws. MMC electronics, FastFix blade changes, retractable spring-loaded riving knife, integrated dust extraction, and triple motor bearings all add up to unsurpassed quality and usability.

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The Track Saw by Scheppach (about \$129) has a (model M90700 with a 6 1/4-inch) Blade Plunge Saw with two 25" rails is a remarkable circular saw.

This saw is the same as the Fox Shop, Grizzly and a few other brand track saws (they are injection molded in different colors). The spring is very strong on the saw which make it hard to do one hand operation, which would be common with a circular saw. I have seen a great review of the Grizzly version of this saw by Marc from the Wood Whisperer, and he compared the cutting to a Festool ts 55.

You can update the blade to a Freud 48 tooth Festool compatible saw blade, and the cut will be twice as clean, almost perfect, though the original blade does a good job. The best price for this blade is at Router Bit World. It was almost \$8.00 less than Amazon.

The really only down side of this version compared to the Woodstar, Shop Fox and Grizzly Track saw is that they come with a 55" track and the Scheppach comes with two 25" tracks which only equals 50". However, when the two tracks are aligned with a straight edge and connected tight it is very straight. You may want to order the Shop Fox 55" track from Amazon. It's been noted by a few that as the saw sets on the track that it has a slight rocking motion. It was something noted on the wood whisperer Grizzly track saw review. You can fix the problem of the saw tilting in the track by adding a glide strip in between the two risers in the track and completely eliminated the tipping issue and the saw seems to still be at a 90 deg for the cut. There is also a good tutorial on YouTube.com that deals with fixing the few flaws with this track saw system. With the problems fixed, top notch blade and 105" of track in total so you can rip a 4x8 sheet of ply or MDF. I recommend this saw over the other

More on Circular Saws

three versions, due to the cost savings on the actual saw which would allow you to dial it in with a new blade. Yes, this saw is really good straight out of the box, but make a few mods and your cut will compare to a Festool, although the dust collection on the Festool will still outperform this saw.

The dust collection is still good on this saw, much cleaner than a circular saw. I suggest that hitched up to a descent shop vac that it collects about 90% of the dust. If you can't afford a Festool, Dewalt, Makita or Bosch, or your like me and just don't believe it's necessary to spend more to get great results, then purchase this saw.

Unfortunately it looks as though Amazon no longer stocks them. So it looks like your best bet is to go with the Shop Fox or Grizzly. So much lighter, safer and more accurate than the worm drive Skil saw and a straight edge.

The Craftsman Model 10872 3 inch Mini circular saw (about \$90), may be perfect for those who want the precision cutting ability of a circular saw in a lightweight portable power tool. The Craftsman Mini Circular Saw allows you to easily cut clean, straight lines on jobs in which a standard size circular saw would be awkward and heavy to handle. The compact design and sharp 3" blade make cutting thin pieces of wood a snap.

While Sears discontinued this little saw. I see that they have a more improved version with a track system that could come in very handy since using this saw is a little difficult to hold and cut accurately, the handle where the motor is at, is a little thick for my hands since I am smaller.

There also this Craftsman NEXTEC 12.0V Lithium-Ion Circular Saw, that has a handle just like a regular circular saw at half the price, wish I could trade mine for one of them.

Other than a little difficult to handle, the little machine cuts through 3/4 particle board like the big ones. Since you can't buy another one of this model new, just get the other ones.

The Grizzly T25552 Track saw (similar to the Scheppach) (about \$245) redefines the circular saw, making traditional circular saws obsolete. Its plunge-cutting action eliminates flip-up blade guards and its riving knife reduces the risk of pinching and kickback for a new revolution in safety. Although this saw cuts like any other circular saw, the Guide Rail is indispensable for making straight cuts when cutting wide panels. No more unsafe, over-extended reaching, and poor balance while cutting wide panels on a table saw. Once you use this Track Saw, you'll never go back to your old circular saw.

The unit is suitable for a variety of materials like solid wood worktops, double-coated MDF boards, etc. It has an infinitely variable cutting depth up to 2-5/32". The rail system for accurate and inclusive splinter-free cuts includes a non-slip backing on the underside of the rail for secure grip on the workpiece

Sliding surfaces on the guide rail ensure smooth machine operation along with a built-in riving knife for anti-kickback protection plus an anti-tilt bar provides a secure grip on the guide rail for miter cutting. The unit includes a saw blade, continuous cutting depth limiter, anti-kickback protection and a dust port for shop vacuum.

Some Reciprocating Saws to Consider

The Milwaukee 6524-21 Hatchet Reciprocating Saw (about \$180) was 'built for tight spaces. It features a six-position pivoting handle, making it the most compact, unique, reciprocating saw on the market. Only 13-1/2 inches when fully pivoted, the Hatchet easily fits between 16-inch on-center studs and between rafters and joists. This tool is designed to get into those confined areas that no other saw can reach.

A 3/4-inch stroke length makes this tool ideal for cutting in tight spaces. The 7.5 amp Milwaukee-built motor provides the quality and durability you've come to expect from Milwaukee Sawzall reciprocating saws. At a superfast 3,000 strokes per minute, and with aggressive orbital cutting action, the 6524-21 gets the job done quickly and efficiently.

The Quik-Lok blade clamp makes changing blades fast and easy, and the Quik-Lok cord allows for easy field replacement. Not only is the Hatchet fast, but it's comfortable to use with a cushion grip handle for comfortable superior gripping. It's also counter-balanced for smoother operation and less vibration. The 6524-21 includes the tool with a 10-foot, two-wire Quik-Lok cord, Super Sawzall blade, and impact-resistant carrying case.

The Rockwell Vibrafree Reciprocating Saw (Model RK3637K at about \$150) is a very robust, powerful, slightly heavy recip saw. The anti-vibration feature really does work. You can use it to cut door and window frames out when replace them and it cuts through nails like butter. But you should buy good Lennox blades, but even the ones that come with the saw are not bad according to the reviews.

It has an active-vibration-canceling technology for up to 70% less vibration with 0-3000 spm; 1 1/4-in stroke length. With a tool-less adjustable pivot foot and tool-less blade system it saves time. The LED light keeps workpiece safely in sight.

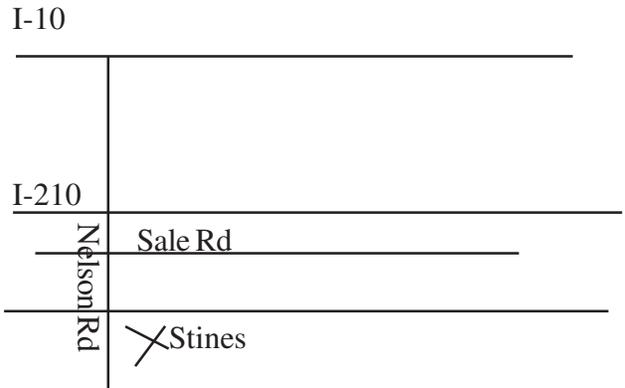
Be safe with these.

June Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. both this May event as well as well the June meeting Please enter the store and go to the very back of 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 tuen 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.



June 2015