

Gary Rock, President
Dick Hopes, Treasurer

Officers and Director

Barry Humphus, Editor, Bubba Cheramie
George Kuffel, John Marcon, Chuck Middleton

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 Trough: 583-2683. Each has years of experience and knowledge.

November Meeting Highlights

Stine Lumber was out host this month with David Stine saying a few words in appreciation to the members of the Lake Charles Woodworkers. The Lake Charles Woodworkers sincerely thank David Stine and Stine Lumber not only for their continued sponsorship, but also for continued support of our group. Without them and other woodworking oriented companies in the area, the Lake Charles Woodworkers could not exist.

Gary Rock's monthly safety briefing was about lathe safety as he showed photos of a chunk of wood still embedded in the ceiling of his shop as a reminder to him every time he enters. The wood came from an 18 inch disk of spruce he was about to turn. John Perry reminded everyone of the dangers of table saw kickback. John did a table saw tune-up demonstration a few years ago and discussed how kickback can happen. Aaron Andrepont told us about his reinforced shop apron - something anyone should consider having. The bottom line is to expect the unexpected. John also mentioned that he has a substantial number of maple cutoffs and to give

him a call if you are interested.

The principal focus of this month's meeting was an invitation by Stine's and Freud Tools. George Malley did an all day presentation at the Lake Charles Stines on their products. He started by telling some of the history of the Freud Tool company and what they do in the process of manufacturing their tools.

Located in the northern part of Italy, Mr. Malley described his experiences at the factory where the carbide and other products are produced.

Malley told of the great materials research Freud has done over many years of careful work. Freud develops different types of carbide for each application to maximize the cutting life and performance of the tool. He pointed out that Freud is one of a few companies that manufacturer it's own carbide blends. Malley added that Freud leads the industry in innovative manufacturing, precision products and quality service.

Malley mentioned that Freud has over 1,500 different saw blade configurations and 920 different router bits. He said that the key to a blade that stays sharp is the particle size of the carbide and Freud has the smallest at only 4 microns in size. Freud is also an OEM manufacturer for DeWalt, Milwaukee and others.

Malley's Freud truck was quite a place to visit as well. He continued to talk to customers and train Stine personnel throughout the day.

For Show and Tell, Jimmy Everett brought a twisted piece he had carved into a snake motif. Rock showed off some his recent turning with a large aspen bowl, a cottonwood piece with inlay and a natural edged bowl of mountain willow. Gary also had a collection of some of his tree topers and briefly discussed how to stabilize them during turning. He used a liquid shoe die as a colorant. Barry Humphus mentioned that Ritz die products are excellent and available in hundreds of colors.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors, the schedule was set for the first half of 2008. In January, we'll meet at George Kuffels shop for a demonstration of the Legacy system. February and March will be a John Marcon's studio. April will see us at J.W. Anderson's shop in DeRidder while for May and June, we'll be at Dick Hopes and Dick Trough's shops respectively.

Coming Up ... Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the shop of Charlene and Chuck Middleton. There will be lots of goodies to eat and we hope you bring some favorite items.



From the President

If you missed our last club meeting at Stines Lumber in Lake Charles, you missed big pile of eats provided by Stines Lumber along with a big pot of coffee. Dennis Stine asked to speak to our group, which I gladly gave him the floor. He talked about the last time the club met at the lumber company then talked about Safety. He stated that they open all their meetings first, talking about Safety, then onto business. After his talk, I took over and conducted our business. On the agenda first was the "WHITE ELEPHANT" gift exchange, the club member passed. Which is you bring TWO wrapped presents. It can be anything from a small box to a turned bowl to a broken table leg. It is all in fun -use your imagination- and when the presents are chosen and opened we move on to the next person. There will be no stealing or swapping during the gift exchange. Now after the exchange if you want to do some swapping that's up to you. If you want to buy something instead of making something for the "White Elephant Exchange," there will be a limit of \$25 per present. This will be after our "SHOW and TELL" and safety talk.

Again if you missed last months meeting you missed the talk by George Malley who is FREUD representative. He asked from the start of his talk, "how much time did he have?" I told him he had till 12:00 noon- he had roughly two and half hours. He has a vast knowledge of his product and kept everyone laughing with tales that he told along with a ton of information on his product- FREUD tools from router bits to saw blades. Time literally flew during this time. After his talk, we spent time cleaning and packing his demo pieces and bringing them out to his truck. When entering his truck I was amazed at the equipment that he had in there and he (George) was very happy to help you with a problem from router bits - which John Perry asked him about raised panel bits to saw blades on his table saw. I couldn't stay for I received a phone call that I was needed at a remodel job site.

As I stated in my letter last month, Dec. 31 of this year is my last day in office. I hoped that you have thought about who you want as your next club president. With this said, before you nominate a club member for the Presidency, you must get their OK to do this. Then if there is more than one nominated for the office, then we will take a vote.

J.W. Anderson will donate an Adirondack Chair that he will make for the December raffle.

Its time to pay our annual club dues. Where can you have so much fun on a Saturday morning once a month at a different members shop eating all those good dough-nuts and drinking good coffee. The "Bring Back Item" for December

will be Chuck Middleton (where we are having our meeting) and in January will be John Perry.

We are entering the time of the year where there are lots of parties, kids and grandkids coming over. Please keep your mind on the job at hand and not on who's coming over or the party that you are going to. You want to go through the holidays with everything in place that you were born with and not a trip to the Emergency room. Always expect the unexpected and to be safe you must work safe.

I send best wishes to all our members and their families during the upcoming holidays.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year."
Gary Rock.

Woodworker's Bench

A non-member in Amite wrote to me recently asking about what to do about a standard woodworker's bench. He was just starting his shop and needed advice on what he should do. This seemed an interesting challenge, so we researched the possibilities.

A standard woodworkers bench is generally 48" or so by 24" wide, though that can vary. I've certainly seen plans for 32 or even 36 inch wide tables. The real key is to include one or more woodworking vises in the plans.

There are several on the Internet and these are generally good designs. For example, Jeff Greef at his web site has a great design nearly anyone can build. See it at www.jeffgreefwoodworking.com. At www.workbenchdesign.net you can also find a free plan for a great workbench.

There are also several on the market that you can purchase ready-build or as a kit. In fact, most modern workbenches come as a kit after you receive the shipment.

In addition, the plans listed above provide references on where to obtain workbench hardware such as vises and bench dogs. Rockler, Woodcraft and others have both plans for sale as well as complete benches plus hardware your can get.

An alternative to the classic workbench is the assembly table. While these can vary a great deal depending on your requirements and the size of your shop, the best advise it's to build one of more that are the same height as your table saw. That way, you can use it as a giantrest when handling large stock such as full sheets of plywood.



2008 Dues Are Due Now

The Lake Charles Woodworkers Club depends on your continued support. Without you, the LCWW could not exist. So now is the time to send in your annual subscription. It is just \$20 for a family membership for all of the Newsletters, the meetings, the great interaction with other members, Show and Tell and so much more. Why not renew your membership today? The low cost and considerable benefits are something that you will continue to enjoy and benefit from.

Just send your \$20 to Dick Hopes, Treasurer, 1139 Green Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611. Or at the next meeting, just see Dick and give him your check or cash. You will get a membership card that entitles you to discounts at local suppliers.

Call For Ideas and Articles

Over the past 12 years, I have been creating and writing the Lake Charles Woodworkers monthly Newsletter. To date, we have issued 204 newsletters during our 18 year history as an organization and I have had the opportunity to publish 144 of them. That amounts to a 576 page book.

I am always struggling each month to do this, to find the information that seems both timely and relevant to you. I do not always achieve this principally because I receive little or no support from the membership on what they want to see and read about.

Recently our President Gary Rock asked if it were possible to expand the newsletter to include more articles and more photographs. There is no financial reason that this cannot be done. According to Dick Hopes, our treasurer, we can well afford to have a larger newsletter.

The trouble with Gary's great idea is that I can barely fill three full pages each month. Filling five or six pages would be a nightmare given the resources I have at my disposal. I do not have the support of the membership in-so-far as ideas on what should be included.

I admit that a few members have been very helpful including Gary for his great President's Message each month (we hope his replacement continues this fine tradition), Dick Trough, George Kuffel, Jeff Cormier and a couple of more that I have simply forgotten to mention, have suggested several things that I've turned into interesting items.

But fellow members, I need your help and I need it more frequently than once or twice a decade. We currently have about fifty members, all of whom are bright, creative and work hard. Help me by doing just a tiny bit more - just once or twice a year. That way you'll continue to get our fine Newsletter and make me much happier producing it. *Barry*

Humphus.

Christmas Picture Frames

Don't you just hate to make a picture frame. You know what I mean - your spouse says - Oh, what a wonderful print - you can frame that can't you? Your head drops down, you lift it up and smile and say Sure Darling, what ever you want.

I hate making them but I've found that the best policy is just to smile, nod and put it off until next year - haha - wish I could.

The standard picture frame is a precision piece of work. The corners must be exact of course but just as critical are the lengths of the sides. If the lengths are not dead on, the corners will never fit.

Here's how to do it. Determine the desired picture frame dimensions. Remember to use the mat, not the picture, as a guide to determine the finished dimensions. Choose picture frame moulding, builder's moulding or lumber for your frame. Picture frame moulding can be obtained at framing stores, art stores and larger craft shops like Hobby Lobby. Builder's moulding and lumber can be found at your local home improvement store.

Measure the width of your chosen framing material and multiply this number by 8. Add to this measurement the length of each side of your desired frame. Divide the total inches by 12 (most wood material is sold by the foot). Purchase this amount of framing material plus a few inches extra in case of a cutting error.

If using a handsaw, cut the moulding into four pieces, one for each side of the frame. Each piece should measure the desired length of the side plus twice the width of the wood. This extra amount is for the mitered corners. Use a mitre box and a handsaw to cut the end of each piece to a 45-degree angle. The mitre box allows the piece of wood to be held firmly and will guide the saw so that it cuts at the correct angle. Now lay the cut frame pieces out onto a flat work surface and arrange them so that they form a frame.

Use wood glue and corner clamps to join the corner sections of the frame. Apply the wood glue along the cut edges, press the pieces together, and hold the pieces in place with a corner clamp. Glue and clamp all four corners, then turn the frame over so that the back is facing up.

Apply two V nails along each glued corner seam with a hammer. Place one nail toward the inside edge of the frame and the other toward the outer edge. The midpoint of the nail should rest on the seam and the open portion of the V should be pointed toward the inside edge of the frame. Finally, remove the clamps and allow the frame to dry overnight. Do any sanding or staining of the frame after the drying process is complete. Happy Holidays. *Barry Humphus.*