

Jeff Cormier, President
Sandy Kramer, 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; Chuck Middleton: 625-3134; Gary Rock: 433-1679; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Dick Trough: 583-2683. Each has years of experience and knowledge.

George and Nancy Kuffel were our hosts this month in George's great shop. It was reported that John Griffith has been in hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Jeff Cormier discussed a safety concept called situational awareness. It is used in industry, in first responder and military training because each of these professions can have dangerous situations. Working with power tools should apply this concept as well. The idea is to be acutely aware of your surroundings and what is happening. Focus on the task yet be prepared to alter your behavior as circumstances warrant. When I went through State required driver training a couple of years ago, our instructor emphasized this concept - being aware of not only what is ahead but at the sides and back of your vehicle. This applies to your shop as well and any task that requires your full attention.

For Show and Tell, Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux had a miniature Outhouse, a scrowled prayer motif, and a neat shopping bag holder to start. J.W. Anderson had another of his great cutting boards of beech, sycamore and black walnut with a mineral oil finish. An oil finish for a cutting board should be carefully chosen. Mineral oil is not absorbed by the body and thus safe. Walnut oil is OK as well and most vegetable oils with the exception of peanut oil are fine. Some people have life threatening reactions to peanut oil thus it should never be used to finish anything that comes in contact with food.



Sandy Kramer continues her scroll work and this time with an LSU motif that she did for her boss at work. Pie Sonnier continues to amaze us with his prolific examples of classic vehicles. This month he brought a 1930s style fire engine with a working ladder. Pie said that this was the second version of this design he has constructed with not so many loose parts. It was made of the typical materials including beech, walnut, ebony, etc.

Stephan Thomas had photos of a nice cabinet con-



structed of ash plywood. He was able to get this wood through Acadian Hardwood (645 Canary Street Vidor, TX is the nearest to us). Don Elfert showed off a finished version of the foot stool he showed last month. It was finished by one of his church colleagues. He sold it in a raffle for \$50 plus a piroe for \$250 to raise support funds. Don also had a neat little climbing toy he built from a plan.

Ray Kebodeaux brought us some 'bullet' pens he has turned from Osage orange, walnut, Brazilian walnut and hop horn bean woods. Steve Thomas won the Show and Tell drawing and Joe Comeaux won the Bring Back Item.

Coming Up . . . November 10, 2012 at 9:00 A.M at the studio of John Marcon. It is always great to be there as Jhon has many interesting things to say.

Work Sharp Tool - Jeff Cormier

The LCWW club has been given a Work Sharp tool sharpening system from Darex, the makers of Work Sharp and Drill Doctor.

It is a knife and chisel sharpener based on sandpaper. I have not found any local business handling the Work Sharp system, hence we have no local supplier for their replacement sandpaper. In the e-mail I received from Audrey Williamson of Darex, we are to use it. If anyone wishes to take and used it first, that would be great. I would like us to pass it around between each other so that everyone gets a chance at it. It calls for a special windmill type of sandpaper, but I don't think that will truly be necessary.

I would also like someone to make a carrying case that will hold it, its accessories, instructions, and spare sandpaper. Members can experiment with it and pass on what they like and dislike about it. After all members have used it that wish, we can decide if we want to keep rotating it among us or simply have a drawing for it. I am sure their goal is to give us all a chance with it in hopes of selling more of them.
Jeff Cormier.

Work Sharp Tool - Report from Steve Thomas

Overall, it worked well and I liked using it. It was quick to set up out of the box. I read the instructions then sharpened a couple chisels. Then I found the video. I was doing everything correct but the video helps and suggest watching that first.

Attaching the grinding discs to the wheels was easier than I thought it would be. And switching from one plate or grit to the next was fast and easy. I sharpened about 12 wood chisels and over a dozen different shapes of lathe tools and 6 kitchen knives.

Putting a razor edge on the kitchen knives was easy. I only used the 1000 grit disc for this since they didn't need re-contoured. I tried all the grits. I reshaped the angle on most of my wood chisels because I had always hand ground them before. I took two of the chisels through all the grits just to see the end result. It takes a lot of time if your doing a lot of them. I took the rest to 1000 grit and stopped. The edge at this point was good enough to shave the hair on my arm so I stopped. Having a polished edge on a wood chisel is nice but not necessary. At least for what I use them for.

Sharpening lathe tools with the see through discs was a great advantage over the conventional grinder. I only used the 400 grit disc to put an edge on most of the lathe tools. I did use the 1000 grit on a couple of them just to see how they worked but I don't see a great advantage to this. De-

pending on what type of wood your turning, even good high speed steel tools tend to loose their edge after a certain amount of turning and taking the time to buff the edge takes time away from the lathe. I'd rather be turning than sharpening tools. But the thing I like best about the Work Sharp is that it does not remove a lot of stock (like the grinder does) from your expensive lathe tools. Most of the time you just want to touch them up and being able to see the surface of the tool edge as you grind saves time and tool.

The included grinding discs were 80, 120, 400, 1000 3600, & 6000. The jump from 120 to 400 would be faster if there were a 220 or 320 in between. If I owned the machine I would have at least 4 of the slotted discs because it's not likely you will be able to re-apply the discs once you peel them off. Another issue I had was identifying the grits once the PSA discs were applied to the round back plates. I used a black marker and wrote the grit on each one near the center for quick reference when changing discs.

The instructions said that the grinding process was noisy and suggested hearing protection but I didn't experience that. It's a lot quieter than my grinder. I did use one quick clamp to keep the Work Sharp tool from moving around on the bench when I was in the process of using the tool, but it's pretty smooth other than that. *Steve Thomas.*

Work Sharp Follow-up

What we would really like to do with the Work Shop product is to get it to as many members as possible for them to try out in their shop. The key is that who ever tries out the unit needs to send an email to Barry Humphus (lcwoodworkers@gmail.com) or write it up in a document about their experience and use of the Work Sharp and get it to Barry. That way, we can report back to the nice folks at Darex who donated this product (as well as the Drill Doctor) to us for evaluation.

Please participate and try this product in your shop over the next several meetings. We get these opportunities from time to time and in order to continue this, we need to participate. Please let Jeff Cormier know if you would like to try out the Work Sharp unit. Barry Humphus.

That Time of Year

OK, it is the begining of that time of year when you must renew your annual LCWW membership. Recall that it is just \$20 for a full year for a family membership and this has not changed for 20 years almost. This is cheap and you get a great value for this. What other membership have you had for the past twenty years that has been so low cost yet of such value? See Sandy Kramer, Treasuer at the next meeting and pay your 2013 dues..

Biscuit Joiner Tips

A few biscuit-joiner fences tilt to 135° to capture the end of a mitered workpiece. That keeps the tool stable when cutting the slot. If your joiner's fence maxes out at 90°, you can get the same stability with this trick. Simply clamp your mating mitered workpieces back-to-back so the bevels form a 90° angle, as shown, and cut slots on each miter.

The slot for a #0 biscuit measures about 2 1/8" wide, so you can't hide a biscuit joint in stock narrower than this. If you're making face frames -- which are typically narrower than that -- you won't be able to join them with any of the three standard biscuits. Here's a way to reinforce a joint with full-size biscuits on the back side -- provided they won't be seen. Glue and clamp the mating boards together. When dry, cut slots across the joint line no deeper than 2/3 the boards' thickness, and then glue in biscuits (top photo). After the glue dries, cut the biscuits off and sand them flush.

If you make a lot of narrow face frames, consider purchasing Porter-Cable's biscuit joiner, which includes an extra blade to cut smaller face-frame slots for special 1 1/4"-long biscuits.

Even a well-tuned biscuit joiner can sometimes cut slots that result in a non-flush-fitting joint. To avoid this, elevate the biscuit joiner with a sheet of sandpaper before cutting the face-grain slot. Then, after assembly, use your router to flush-trim the end grain of that piece for a perfect flush fit.

As with any cutting tool, a poor blade results in sub-par cut quality. If you're seeing tear-out or hanging strands at the right-hand (exit) side of the slot, consider replacing the factory-supplied blade with a quality aftermarket one. I recommend Freud's six-tooth biscuit-joiner blade because its carbide teeth cut cleanly and last longer than the teeth on most stock blades.

As with any cutting tool, a poor blade results in sub-par cut quality. If you're seeing tear-out or hanging strands at the right-hand (exit) side of the slot, consider replacing the factory-supplied blade with a quality aftermarket one. We recommend Freud's six-tooth biscuit-joiner blade because its carbide teeth cut cleanly and last longer than the teeth on most stock blades.

If you live in a humid climate (how about LC), you know how biscuits can swell -- sometimes even despite storing them in sealed containers -- resulting in biscuits that won't fit in the slots. That's a problem when your glue begins to set up and you've got a lot of biscuits to install. Sure, you can shrink biscuits in a microwave oven, but they'll likely come out different thicknesses. So run your biscuits through the Biscuit Press, an aluminum hand-cranked tool that com-

presses them to uniform thickness.

Referencing biscuit slots using the machine's base rather than the fence usually works great, provided your workpieces sit perfectly flat against the benchtop. Because it takes both hands to operate the joiner, you need a helping hand to secure the workpiece. Kreg's Bench Klamp System provides quick clamping, particularly with slightly bowed stock. To install this clamp, rout a recess into your benchtop and mount the flush-fitting plate with screws. When not in use, remove the clamp via the keyhole slot in the plate.

Sometimes, cutting slots into workpiece edges can be tricky because a short fence fails to provide enough reference surface to prevent tipping. That's when you need this base extension. Build it from plywood or any scrap stock that's flat.

If you're cutting multiple biscuit slots in wide side panels, such as for shelves in a bookcase or cabinet, make a T-square for repeatable accuracy. Glue and screw the parts together at exactly 90°. After the glue dries, mark biscuit centerlines on the arm. Now use the T-square to line up your biscuit joiner for cutting slots in the case sides and mating shelves, referencing the T-square from the same edges.

If you do a lot of biscuit joinery, you'll appreciate this versatile jig, with fences and guides that make cutting slots easy and accurate, including on beveled and mitered workpieces. Build it according to the plan in issue 161 (February/March 2005) or download it for free at woodmagazine.com/biscuitjig. Mount your biscuit joiner in the jig, clamp the jig to your workbench, and you have a rock-solid workstation.

Splines add both strength and visual appeal to normally weak miter joints, especially when you make the spline from a contrasting wood species. Cutting the spline slots on your tablesaw requires a tall jig, but you can cut them easily and quickly with your biscuit joiner and the attached fence jig, see PDF file below.

Here's how to do it. First, assemble your mitered project and allow the glue to dry. Cut two mirror-image triangles, as shown, mounting them to your joiner's fence with machine screws and nuts. Set your joiner's cutting depth as deep as you can. Trap the mitered corner in the fence jig and plunge a cut centered on the workpiece's thickness. Then glue in the spline of your choice. When dry, trim it and sand flush. *Barry Humphus edited from Wood Magazine*

Barry Humphus cannot be at the November meeting because of work travel, so to all of you have a great Thanksgiving and have a great holiday. See you all in December at the great shop of Larry and Lede Cooper.