

Steve Thomas, President  
Joe Comeaux Treasurer

Officers and Directors

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

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

### February Meeting Highlights

This months meeting was at the shop of Steve Thomas. As always, thanks for hosting.

Steve Thomas started off by reminding those present that the annual dues, if unpaid, are past due. If you want to continue to receive our monthly Newsletter and be welcomed as a member, pay Joe Comeaux \$20 at the March meeting. This is a family member ship so spouses and children (and grandchildren) are always welcome.

Steve talked about ladder safety this month and several of us had harrowing tales about ladder issues. While wooden ladders are still available, the more modern fiberglass units provide plenty of holding power, typically are fitted with wider stances and won't rot over time. Steve noted that it is against Federal law to sell a painted wooden ladder. What ever type you decide on, check the load rating on the info tag. The maximum load is you plus all that you are wearing and carrying so don't buy low cost, low rated ladders except for very light duty. You likely should not loan out your ladder as there could be a liability issue should the borrower fall off yours.

There was also a discussion on lumber storage systems. It was mentioned that there are many free designs on line that are much more efficient than just a box frame. These include designs for both lumber stock and panel stock. In SW Louisiana, avoid storing lumber outdoors if possible as the relatively high humidity will mean further drying when brought indoors for a project.

However, if outdoor storage is your only option, paint the ends of lumber with any cheap paint (do this for logs and billets as well) to control drying and avoid checking and splits later on.

For Show and Tell, Sandy Kramer showed of her wood burning skills and had reproduced a photo of her parents home - beautiful work and Ronnie Kramer built the niece frame for the image. Ray Kebodeaux brought what he called his segmented flying saucer bowl plus a neat paper clip holder using an old audio speaker magnet. Ray also produced a nice carving tool he made from an old planer blade. Ray donated this to George Carr - one of our great carvers.

George Carr brought a purchased basswood box on which he had done a custom carving plus some gel-stained crosses he had recently done. J.W. Anderson had a nice cypress Sweet & Low holder.

Joe Comeaux has been turning lots of pens from the kits you can purchase online. These were very special in that they were segmented. Joe talked about difficult they were to re-assemble should you remove the rubber bands that hold them together prior to glue-up. Woodcraft sells these as well as woodnwhimsies.com but note that you have to assemble the parts from the later firm.

Steve McCorquodale brought us some china berry candle holders he turned. Steve, a master sawyer, always has good advice about how to care for and prepare for logs and lumber. He said that stripping the bark off your logs will result in much less splitting and checking as they dry.

Steve Thomas did a segmented bass wood turning with a wine color stain with alternating face and end grain. The peice was highly polished and Steve done a final sanding with auto-finish scratch out and had air brushed on the color. He said that should you air brush, back off as you spray to feather properly.

Gary Rock brought something old - his first turned bowl out of pine! It was round but nothing like the beautiful, creative work he does these days. Don Elfert showed his new Dremel mini-saw with multiple blade systems that is about \$100 at local suppliers. Steve McCorquodale won the Show & Tell gift card.

Steve reminded us that if you want a LCWW wooden name badge, contact him as we need to have at least ten done at a time to keep down the cost. These are done at Classic Doors in Iowa on their laser cutter.

Long time member Dick Trouth has been in the hospital and under the weather of late. Please keep Dick and Patricia in your thoughts and give him a call of support if you can.

Comming up . . . The shop of Sandy and Ronnie Kramer will be the folks who host our March meeting starting at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 8, 2014. See the map.

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## Annual LCWW Board of Directors Meeting

The Lake Charles Woodworkers holds an annual meeting of its board members. The meeting is open to all members and is generally held in February of each year. Call to order was by Steve Thomas, President and beginning discussion at 11:00 A.M. at his shop.

1. Attending: Steve Thomas, President, Joe Comeaux, Treasurer, Barry Humphus, Jeff Cormier, George Kuffel, John Marcon, and Gary Rock.

2. Approval of the last meeting minutes: Motion to approve the last minutes was moved by Barry Humphus and seconded by John Marcon. The vote to approve the last Board meeting minutes was unanimous.

3. Old Business. There was no old business.

4. New Business. Treasurer Joe Comeaux discussed the idea of having Steve Thomas be a signer on the LCWW checking account at Jeff Davis Bank. Joe Comeaux moved that Steve Thomas be added as a signer on the checking account and Barry Humphus be dropped from this duty. The motion was seconded by Jeff Cormier. The vote to approve this change was unanimous. Barry Humphus will provide a copy of the minutes approving the change to Joe Comeaux and Steve Thomas so that the change may be done by Jeff Davis Bank.

Joe Comeaux discussed some of the difficulty with being both the Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Steve Thomas moved that Barry Humphus be appointed as the officer as Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded by Gary Rock. The vote to approve this change in officers was unanimous. Barry Humphus will continue to take minutes at each regular meeting as Recording Secretary as needed.

Treasurer Joe Comeaux discussed the need to annually have members sign a liability waiver rather than just when the member joins. The latter has caused some issues with some members not signing the waiver when they joined and others leaving the LCWW and re-joining at a later date and not signing the waiver. Having a form signed by each member each year will allow the Treasurer to better track memberships and account for annual dues. Barry Humphus moved to adopt such a form and annually have members sign a waiver document. The motion was seconded by George Kuffel. The motion carried.

A general discussion was held about future meeting demonstrations and consideration of past demonstrations during meetings particularly tool demonstrations and tool use (tied into safety issues). Some possibilities are turning, scroll saw, simple table saw (e.g., cove cutting), tool sharpening, Google Sketch software demo, AutoCAD demo (possibly by member Don Elfert). Barry suggested that he may be able to get someone from the SOWELA drafting department to do an AutoCAD demonstration. A discussion was made about variations on safety discussions such as showing safety videos. Joe said that he had a projector that could be used with a

computer and source media from YouTube, SWLA Safety Council and other places were discussed.

Barry Humphus mentioned that he needed the final financial report from Sandy Kramer or Joe Comeaux so that this could be published in a future newsletter as required by the LCWW.

Steve Thomas noted that 2014 is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the existence of the LCWW and that at the next meeting, he would ask for ideas about how we could celebrate this and honor members.

There being no further business, Steve Thomas asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Cormier motioned to adjourn and George Kuffel seconded. The motion carried and the meeting ended at 12:30 P.M.

## Half Lap Joints

A half-lap joint consists of two workpieces reduced to half of their thickness where they lap over each other. This provides a face-grain-to-face-grain joint with plenty of gluing surface. Simple butt joints, on the other hand, rely on an end-grain-to-edge-grain bond that can break easily. Even a dowel-reinforced butt joint won't prove as strong as a half-lap.

Half-lap joints do reveal end grain on both sides of the joint, so avoid using the joint where such an appearance proves objectionable. We often use half-laps for shop-cabinet door frames, workbench leg frames, outdoor furniture, and internal web frames for furniture such as dressers.

You need only a tablesaw or radial-arm saw to make a half-lap. We prefer to use a dado set for fast and smooth results. However, you can do half-lap joints using a bandsaw.

If you don't own a dado set that will cleanly shear cross grain and leave the sawn surface smooth and flat, I suggest you use a router table outfitted with a straight bit. Here, we show how to make corner- and T-joints with a tablesaw, but you easily can adapt these techniques to your radial-arm saw or router table.

Install your complete dado set so you get the widest cut possible with it (typically 13/16). Raise the blade above the table (exact height isn't important yet). Adjust your rip fence so one edge of your workpiece butts against the fence and the opposite edge aligns with the side of the dado set farthest from the fence (as shown in the illustration).

If all of your workpieces are of the same width, you can leave your fence at one position for all of the cuts. If you're working with pieces of different widths, keep in mind that you use a workpiece's adjoining piece to set the fence for its half-lap cut. For example, with a door frame use the horizontal workpieces (the rails) to set the fence for the cuts in the vertical workpieces (the stiles), and vice versa.

Set the cutting depth of the dado set so it removes precisely one-half of the workpiece thickness. Test your cutting depth with two pieces of scrap stock of the same thick

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ness as your workpieces. After cutting the scrap pieces, lay them on a flat surface and align them. The top and bottom faces should be flush.

Mark the face sides of your workpieces so you don't get them confused. Keep in mind that you need to place the face side of one piece up, and the face side of the adjoining piece down, during this step.

Set your miter gauge for a square cut, and attach an auxiliary wooden fence to it. The auxiliary fence should come to within 1/2" of butting against the rip fence.

Now, position the workpiece with an edge against the auxiliary fence and an end butted against the rip fence. Turn on the saw, hold the workpiece firmly against the auxiliary fence, and pass the workpiece over the dado set. Make successive passes to complete the half-lap cut.

To clamp the joint, first apply wood glue to all mating surfaces. Draw the workpieces together with bar or pipe clamps. Then, bring the glued surfaces tightly together with a small clamp. Place a scrap of wood on the joint faces to protect them from the clamp jaws. From Wood Magazine edited by Barry Humphus.

### Tight Joint Tricks

Trying to make a sloppy joint fit without throwing the entire project out of whack may be one of the most exasperating challenges in woodworking. Learn to avoid those situations with these simple joinery tips and techniques. For example, with a shoulder plane, you can smooth rabbets right up to the shoulder for cleaner edges and stronger glue joint.

A shoulder plane is one of the hand tools that even power-tool junkies should own because it allows you to fine-tune the fit of a number of different joints, from mortise-and-tenon to breadboard ends.

Machines cut joints fast, but not always accurately. That's the time to bring in hand tools because sanding blocks, chisels, and planes remove wood in thousandths of an inch for a snug joint.

If you don't have a block plane or shoulder plane, don't rush out and buy them—yet. Start simple with a sanding block you can make for pennies using scraps, sandpaper, and spray-adhesive. Then add a good set of bevel-edge bench chisels. As your joinery skills improve, save time by supplementing your sanding blocks with well-honed block and shoulder planes.

The uses of a sanding block include reducing tenon thickness by sanding the cheeks, and make the shoulders even with each other; smooth scoring from tablesaw-cut rabbets or dadoes or stub-tenon grooves for cleaner edges and a stronger glue joint; and adjust half-lap depths to make parts flush. For a curved sanding block to fine-tune coped ends on molding, wrap sand-paper around dowels of different sizes.

Match the grit to the amount of stock to remove—start at 80 grit for removing deep score lines; 120 grit works great

for minor tenon corrections. Then match the block size to the job. For example, plane a scrap block to the thickness of your dado widths; then mount sandpaper to the edge for a sanding block that works the entire dado with each pass. Choose hardwood sanding-block stock that will hold a crisp edge, and attach sandpaper to only one surface, not adjoining faces or edges. That lets you adjust one dimension of a joint without affecting the others. Abrasives on small sanding blocks wear in a hurry, so change paper frequently.

Another useful hand tool to adjust joints is a sharp chisel. You can trim smooth walls and square ends on drilled mortises; on hand-cut dovetails, slice straight lines for clean joints and shave pins to fit the tails; square stopped rabbets. Be sure to hone the bevel and flatten the back for an edge sharp enough to shave the hairs on your arm.

A chisel follows grain as it cuts. For paring cuts with the grain, cut from the opposite direction if you begin to feel the chisel plunge down into the wood. Where that's not an option, hold the chisel perpendicular to the grain and tap it to make 1/16" stop cuts. Then remove the wood between the stops.

Use the widest chisel that fits the joint area you're cutting. To trim the walls of a 2"-wide mortise, for example, two cuts with a 1" or 1-1/2" chisel leave cleaner, straighter lines than four or five cuts with a 1/2"-wide chisel.

With a block plane you can flush-trim edges on parts joined with a machined dovetail; clean up sawn edges to be glued; chamfer tenon ends and panel edges for easy insertion, see photo; clean up cross-grain cuts, such as mitered ends on hand-sawn frame pieces; trim ends or edges that stand proud of an adjacent workpiece; make drawer side edges flush with the drawer front.

Passes on the edge of a scrap block should produce light curls of even thickness from side to side.

The success secret is to check the plane sole for flatness. The best plane works only as well as the sharpness of the blade. (For a good video on how to hone a razor-sharp edge using sandpaper, go to [woodmagazine.com/sharpeningvid](http://woodmagazine.com/sharpeningvid).) Test the plane's cutting depth on scrap until each pass takes a consistent, translucently thin curl, see photo. Before tackling a workpiece, practice controlling the plane balanced on the edge or end of a 1/2"-thick practice scrap.

Shoulder planes are great for tuning joints. With blades that cut a hair wider than the plane body, these specialized planes straighten tenon shoulders and shave tenon cheeks with ease. Other uses include smoothing dado, rabbet, and groove bottoms.

You'll often plane cross-grain with this tool, making a razor-sharp blade essential for success. Center the blade on the plane body. Then adjust the cutting depth to make shallow passes with no tear-out. Because it cuts faster than a sanding block, stop frequently to test-fit parts. Edited from Wood Magazine.

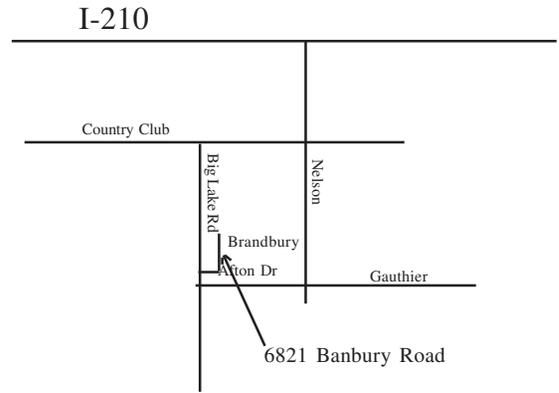
### March Meeting Location

Ronnie and Sandy Kramer have provided the following directions to their shop.

Go south on Nelson Rd. to Gauthier Road, turn right and go to Big Lake Rd, you will see the subdivision on the right.

Turn right on Big Lake Road and then go about 100 yards and turn right on Afton, turn left at the first street which is Banbury Rd, 2nd house on right. 6821 Banbury Road, you will see a big white shop at the end of the driveway.

Sandy and Ronnie Kramer's phone number is 337-477-4651 should you have any questions about the directions.



March 2014

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