

John Griffith, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Steve Thomas, Joe Comeaux

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.

July Meeting Highlight

Our meeting this month was at the wonderful Stines location on Nelson in Lake Charles and thanks tp these nice folks, we hope to meet here through most of the rest of the year.

We had four guests this month: Patricia Dickinson (from Indiana), Jessie Casey, Brad Levine and Pete Drozda. The later three became mew members. Welcome!

Saw safety was among the issues discussed and it was announced that Bosch has introduced a new line of job/site/contractor models that work like the SawStop units. Bosch's new Reaxx isn't the first table saw that stops on contact with skin—Sawstop takes that honor—but it will be the first saw that will save your blade and finger at the same time. It is available now for about \$1,500. Unlike the SawStop, it does not ruin the blade when it fires.

What separates the Bosch Reaxx from the competition is its quick system reset which can be done in less than 60 seconds. If there's an incident you just need to flip around its dual-activation safety cartridge, which means you are good for two slip-ups before it needs to be replaced. The saw blade comes out unscathed along with your fingers. More, later in the Newsletter.

John Griffith discussed bending wood with heat and water with a shop-made bending jig. The jig was made spe-

transfer.

The annual Works of Men at the Brimstone/Henning Museum in Sulphus opened July 21st. Several of our mem-



bers are exhibiting during the event which goes until August 25. Try to get by there and buy something as well. The Museum no longer charges sellers a commission on their sales.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux started off Show & Tell with a nice plack he did on his CNC system, showed a small mounted cross and a rubber band cannon. Eltee also showed his Triton plong router.

Patrick LaPoint showed one of three security wall mount shelves for valuables in your home made of 'Port' wood and birch. J.W. Anderson, brought us some nice small boxes of red wood plus a wonderful cyress table with river birch legs. J.W. said that he had the cyress for several years and it was a massively wide piece with many coats of poly.

George Carr brought us a neat little switch panel of basswood he uses for his ham radio operations. He chip carved his call letters plus covered an image of one of the satiltes he uses for relay. Ray Kibodeaux did a magnificent large vase of beech plus a photo of a great looking cyress and mahogany table. He through mortised the legs and said he would not do that again as it was a difficult process.

Brad brought us a very nice cutting board of renee? wood and oak with a great design. Mitch Morgan has done some chip carving lately and brought us a lovely recipe box made for his mother of basswood and stained, finished with poly. Gary Rock found a lovely piece of white oak he turned into a small platter and finished with Danish oil. Sonny LeBleu brought an interesting piece of wood - feathered oak. Gary won the Show & Tell prize. See pages 2 and 3.



cifically for thin wood that John will use on his guitar projects. He used a heat gun for his source but will likely use a propane touch in the future. The body of the jig is made from thin aluminum for good heat

SawStop Alternative --Bosch ReaXX

The great folks at SawStop did something a few years ago that every woodworker needed -- a safe table saw and one that could not cut you. The technology is simple and the blade carries a very small electrical charge that continuously monitors for skin. If skin contacts the blade, the SawStop cartridge fires forcing the blade down into an aluminum block. This saves your soft parts but ruins the blade and you must replace the cartridge (\$70-\$100) and the blade (\$25-\$50).

The folks at Bosch have come up with a similar saw with comparable technology and released their first unit just last month. It has two cartridges and saves your blade.

Both companies offer job site and contractor saws with the capability of nearly instant stop should the blade encounter skin.

The new Bosch 1041A table saw has a rip capacity of 25". You simply lift a red release lever on the front of the tool, slide the fence out to the right, and then lock it back down. The dual scale on the fence covers both positions so you can continue to make accurate cuts. The SawStop jobsite table saw has a similar rip capacity of 25.5", and setting the table is equally easy. On the Bosch 1041A, however, a movable outfeed gives you an additional 18-inches of support off the back of the saw—something not provided by SawStop in its jobsite model. This feature is also available as an attachment on the existing Bosch 4100 saw, but it comes standard on the Bosch ReaXX 1041A.

Where the Bosch 4100 stores the push stick behind the saw, making it a little difficult to get to, the Bosch 1041A places it right up front in a holster. That means you're more likely to use it. This is a great change for a saw that's emphasizing safety. SawStop stores it atop the location where the rip fence is placed, on the right side of the saw. It's nearly as easy to get to as the ReaXX table saw.

Tool storage on the SawStop JSS-MCA is brilliant. Adding to the convenient side storage is a tray that sits just under the table. In fact, my Bosch contractor saw has this same feature and why they did not do this with the new model. I have no idea.

It's accessible when you extend the table to full rip capacity and safely stores items like a replacement brake cartridge, blade, and miter guide. Bosch has all of its storage on the outside of the saw, and folks have to see whether it holds up to the bumps and drops associated with using a saw on a job site.

The one feature that really impresses about the SawStop JSS-MCA jobsite table saw in particular is its blade height adjust. SawStop uses a geared mechanism that lets you raise the blade the entire height with just one rotation.

That saves a ton of time and makes for a very simple action for setting your blade height. Even the blade angle adjust is simple, with a squeeze mechanism behind the height adjustment wheel that easily tilts the blade left or right—and a balanced trunnion means that the mechanism isn't fighting against you the whole time. Then, a fine adjust knob lets you dial it in for a more precise angle.

Interestingly my Bosch has a similar feature that was not included on the new ReaXX product.

Clearly, the main selling feature of this new Bosch ReaXX table saw is the flesh detection technology. When comparing the Bosch ReaXX 1041A vs 4100 (the one I own) you have to understand that the ReaXX isn't a replacement to the 4100, but rather a high-tech saw that provides a number of useful and sought after safety features.

That means that the real question and comparison becomes the Bosch ReaXX 1041A vs SawStop JSS-MCA as both are a premium product. With either the Bosch ReaXX 1041A or the SawStop table saw, you're going to pay a premium for safety. After comparing the two I can see some clear delineations, but it's going to take some closer inspection before we can render a clear verdict. The blade safety mechanism on the Bosch seems preferable, but I love the rip fence, blade height adjustment, and tool storage on the SawStop JSS-MCA. One thing is for sure, this is a difficult choice.

Our wonderful and creative member Ray Kibodeaux purchased a SawStop saw some time ago and believes that this saw was a great purchase. I must agree. The safety of your softparts are critically important and Ray pointed out correctly that a trip to the ER to have a soft part put back or repaired would cost much more than the saw replacement parts for the firing of the unit.

I discussed all of this with with my research psychologist spouse, perhaps suggesting that I should replace my current Bosch with one of these units. She is rather smart of course and suggested that I do further research on this issue.

In reserach, there are what as known as Type I failures and Type II failures. For example a fire alarm going on indicating a fire when in fact there is no fire is a Type I failure. A Type II failure is a fire breaking out and the fire alarm does not ring.

So if the unit fires when it should not (e.g., wet wood), is a Type I failure. That will cost you money for a replacement unit or blade or both. Worse of course is that it does not fire should your skin contact the blade.

What we do not know from what SawStop and Bosch have done in their research is to test these two ideas and what may be the results of their reseach. *Barry Humphus*

Router Collets

A collet is the steel sleeve that holds a router bit in a router. The collet works with the router shaft (connected directly to the motor) and the collet nut. Collets are machined to perfectly mate with the tapered recess in the end of the shaft and to hold a router bit with just enough clearance to slip the bit in and out when loose.

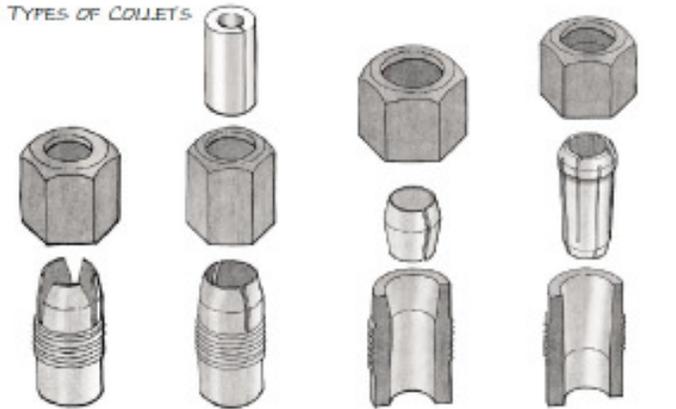
For the best grip, a router bit should be fully inserted into the collet and then backed out about 1/16" (leaving between 3/4" and 1" of the shaft in the collet). The gap allows the collet and bit to be pulled down as the nut is tightened. If the bit is bottomed out in the shaft before tightening, the bit has nowhere to move and the collet won't tighten properly.

Many routers have self-releasing collets that can

Clean the collet parts with a rag dampened with a cleaning solution such as Naphtha. Use a small brush with either nylon or brass bristles to reach into close areas. These bristles will clean the collet without damaging the metal surfaces. Use #0000 steel wool or a synthetic scouring pad to remove burrs or nicks from the collet. Don't use sandpaper as this will only add scratches to the collet.

A bronze cleaning brush commonly used for gun cleaning will also help smooth out damaged surfaces.

TYPES OF COLLETS



SPLIT SHAFT

- SPLIT SPINES ARE MACHINED DIRECTLY ONTO THE END OF THE SHAFT
- HOLDING PRESSURE IS ONLY EXERTED AGAINST PART OF THE BIT SHANK
- WHEN THE COLLET WEARS, THERE'S NO WAY TO REPLACE IT

SPLIT SHAFT WITH SLEEVE ADAPTERS

- ADAPTERS USED IN BOTH SPLIT AND TAPERED SHAFTS
- SLEEVES ALLOW USE OF BOTH 1/4" AND 1/2" SHANK BITS
- DEDICATED COLLETS WITHOUT SLEEVES PREFERABLE

TAPERED SHAFT WITH SINGLE SLIT

- MORE COMMON ARRANGEMENT
- LESS FLEXIBLE BECAUSE OF SINGLE SLIT
- LESS POSITIVE CONTACT ON BIT SHANK THAN MULTI-SLIT COLLET

TAPERED SHAFT WITH MULTI-SLIT

- ALLOWS POSITIVE, EVEN PRESSURE ON ALL SIDES OF BIT SHANK
- BEST HOLD
- COLLET IS OFTEN ATTACHED TO BIT AS SINGLE ASSEMBLY

cause confusion when releasing a bit. These collets have a mechanical connection that holds the bit in the collet tightly, even after the nut has been loosened. As you continue to loosen the nut, the mechanical connection releases and the bit will then come loose.

As with most tools, parts that have metal-to-metal contact, or are in contact with dust and pitch, will wear over time or require maintenance. Worn, scratched, dirty or out-of-round collets will not provide adequate holding power and can increase run-out and vibration. To extend the life of your collet, never tighten a collet without a bit in place. This can compress or deform the collet, leading to an improper fit on the bit.

Pitch and dust can build up in and on the collet, as well as in the recess of the shaft and inside the collet nut. A simple cleaning every so often will ensure a tight fit on the bit.



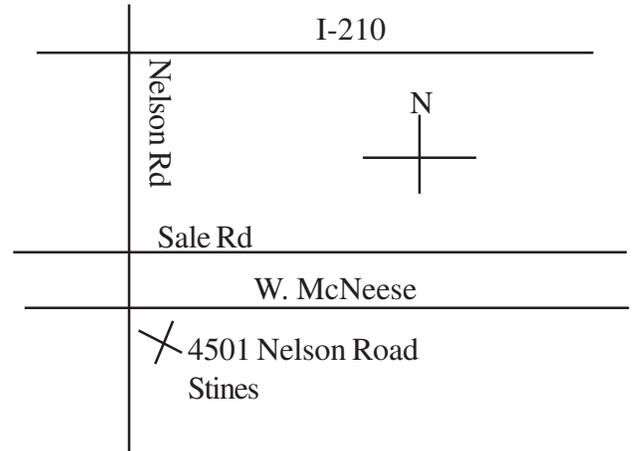
Coming Up . . . Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. Join us at the Stine's meeting room on Nelson Road in Lake Charles for coffee, donuts and great conversation and projects.

August Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the Stines Lake Charles location at 4501 Nelson Road. Please enter the store and go to the back left in the store to the meeting room.

To get there go South on Nelson Road in Lake Charles going 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.

Don't forget to visit the Brimstone Museum in Sulphur. Beginning July 21 and going through August 25, you can see the Works of Men exhibition starting some of our members: Bubba Chermie, Gary Rock, Pie Sonnier and Steve Thomas.



August 2016

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