

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.

October Meeting Highlights

This last month was so hot, it felt like the many weeks after Rita to me. But we had the benefit of meeting at the Stines Store on Nelson and it is always great that they host us each month. Always thank these great folks as you check out.

LCWW Treasurer Patrick LaPoint led us off this month as John Griffith had new grandchild matters to attend.

Patrick reminded everyone that as the end of year holidays approach and we may be spending time in our shops to prepare those special gifts we make for family and friends, that safety in the shop is paramount. He suggested that we review what we do with a couple of areas such as power and flammables.

As we look forward to cooler weather in the next 30 days, some of us may have heaters in our shops. Make certain that your shop is pretty clean of dust and debris as you fire up that heater. Suspended dust can be an explosive issue. If you have a fireplace in your home, throw a VERY small handful of wood dust in the fire and you will understand the possibilities.

Patrick also mentioned the proper storage of flammables, particularly solvents and finishes in your shop. Ideally, you have some sort of metal storage cabinet with doors, to store your chemicals. Periodically inspect the containers for leakage and remove any container that appears to be seeping anything.

Several members mentioned the use of extension cables for power tools. If the cord gets warm while in use, step down the gage of wire (from 16 to 12 gage, for example). A 16 gage cord is no better than lamp cord, so get to 12 or even 10 gage for almost any power tool more than a drill. Of course smoke and CO₂ detectors can be helpful in both your home or shop. Fire extinguishers, such as ABC type, need to be shaken from time to time to prevent packing down of the retardant. Just turn them over a time or two to be sure the material inside is loose and ready to go.

There was also discussion about static discharge in dust collectors and tool sparks contributing to fire issues. Don't forget those finish or oily rags. Dry them or dispose of them properly.

Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux started off Show and Tell with

a scroll saw fidget spinner and Eltee mentioned that to get the best performance from the bearings, remove the seal and clean it out with pure alcohol then apply a drop of fine oil. This will make the spinner work smoothly.

J.W. Anderson had a very nice little bench of dry mustard stained cypress finished with poly. What a creative stain as this made the somewhat boring cypress look like osage orange. Bubba Cheramie has been experimenting with turning branch forks from pecan. He learned from a YouTube clip and preserved the natural bark and had two great examples of his work.

Guest Kyle Andrepont (Aaron's son) brought us a sample of his joinery of hand cut dove tails and then got creative. He turned a rather simple example into a utilitarian product for children as he converted the red eucalyptus joint into a toilet paper holder for kids. Useful and creative. Ray Kebodeaux did a nice mahogany lidded box, flocked inside plus a step and chair for old folks with a clever design for safety.

Gary Rock did a silver maple, turned, pyro burned and feature decorated bowl. Gary is a design thinker that executes from his mind some beautiful work in wood. We recently saw some of his work at the Art Walk exhibition at the historic 1910 Courthouse that may still be on display. Go there and see this artist's latest work.

New member David Webster comes from Arkansas to SW Louisiana with a talent for making pool cues and they are beautiful as well. Inlaid with different woods and other materials they have oak, zebra, ebony, maple, blood wood, rosewood and more and mostly finished in multiple coats of poly. David uses a CueMaster lathe with a 58 inch bed to turn these lovely items. I'm hoping that David will do a discount for those of us who have built their own pool table - hint. I hope to sit at his feet sometime to learn how he creates these wonderful cues. David also mentioned that he has many once used finishes available to give away. Contact him at the next meeting should you have an interest.

Patrick LaPoint said that the Christmas meeting will be at the Seaman's Center at the Port of LC in December. Coming Up . . . Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. at the Stine's Store on Nelson Road in Lake Charles.

Our Mast Head motto is “All the News that Fits” so here are some photos from the October meeting that did not fit on the first page of the Newsletter. Pay close attention to Pie Sonnier’s Bi-Plane as the Stearman is most remarkable. The most difficult part of this plane was the prop, Pie said.



Above are Pie Sonnier’s Stearman, Eltee Thibodeaux’s Spinner, Gary Rock Feather bowl, Steve Thomas Spalted Oak bowl, Bubba Cheramie Fork Bowls, David Webster cues Ray Kebodeaux Chair and a great lidded box as well.

Lithium Ion Batteries and More

At our October meeting there seemed to be some concern about lithium ion batteries that now are the standard battery for many products. They are in our power tools as well as the portable phones we use and there have been some issues regarding their safety.

Indeed there were some issues with aircraft during the past few years with a few planes experiencing failures that started fires particularly in the tail sections of some aircraft. The batteries in question are used to start the auxiliary engines. These are used for initial power of electrical systems and as the primary starter systems for the aircraft engines.

The issue has been that the LiIon batteries were dead shorted, got very hot and started a fire in the hole of the aircraft. This can happen in your shop as well. But not often. As a couple of folks mentioned in the October meeting, once your LiOn battery is charged, take it out of the charger. In that way, you likely will not have any issue with a battery of this type. I recently visited George Kuffel’s shop that he can no longer use. I found a LiOn battery in a charger that had likely been there for several weeks -- not good. This is easy to forget, so go to your shop and check.

The trouble with these batteries is that if they should get hot enough to start burning, they are very difficult to put out. Lithium burns without oxygen so you cannot just throw water on it. Should it be on fire, get the thing on fire away from other combustibles as soon as possible. That is about the only thing you can do safely.

A Table Saw Blade for You

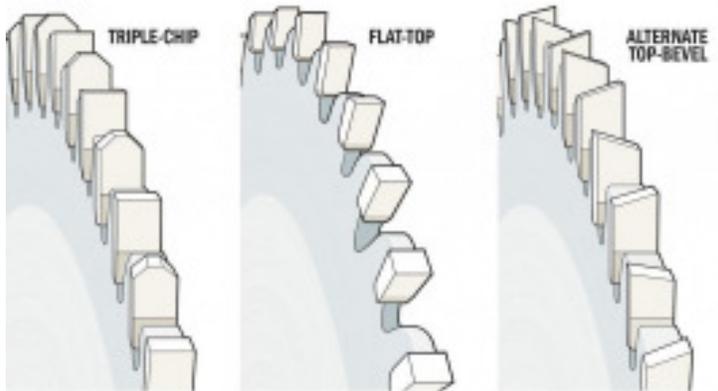
Tablesaws are the center stage in our shops: They’re used for ripping and crosscutting hard and soft woods, plywood, tempered hardboard, and the occasional acrylic. You can certainly use the saw to joint an edge or even resaw. With such diverse materials and cuts, selecting the right blade is essential to getting a clean, burn- and tear-out-free edge. Tablesaw blades come in a wide variety of styles and designs, but they generally fall into one of three categories: rip, crosscut, or general-purpose.

Rip blades stay cool and calm. Expansion slots across the surface of a rip blade and deep gullets between the teeth reduce vibration and heat buildup. A typical 10" rip blade has 24–30 teeth, resulting in deep, wide gullets between each tooth that facilitate the removal of large amounts of material without clogging the blade or straining the saw’s motor. Most blades also rely on triple-chip grind or flat-top grind teeth that cut efficiently with the grain. If you are sawing thick hard-

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wood stock, these may be the best blades you can use. These blades work well when jointing edges or resawing thick stock. There are three general types of blades depending on the tips of the blades: Triple Chip, Flat Top and Alternate Top Bevel. But don't rush when crosscutting. High-tooth-count blades require slower feed rates to allow each tooth to do what it does best: leave perfect, splinter-free edges.

When cutting across the grain, lots of small bites work



better than fewer big ones, so the more teeth the better. Typically, these blades have 60–80 teeth and employ an alternate-top-bevel (ATB) tooth configuration, resulting in an exceptionally smooth finished edge with little if any end-grain tear-out. This is also the blade of choice for clean cuts in plywood.

There is a do-it-all blade. Extra-beefy carbide teeth on combination blades allow them to be sharpened multiple times, thus reducing their cost over their service life. In a perfect world, every shop would have one blade dedicated to ripping and another for crosscutting.

Quality blades can be expensive, so this may not be an option for many woodworkers. (And some of us are too lazy to change blades all the time!) A good compromise is the combination or general-purpose saw blade. With 40–60 teeth, these blades provide very acceptable edges, whether crosscutting or ripping. Teeth generally are an ATB configuration, gullets are deep enough to carry away the larger chips, and expansion slots keep the blade cool during long rip cuts. Although these blades can't match all the performance characteristics of dedicated blades, they're still great alternatives. But my experience is that you should consider two blades: one for crosscut and one for the rip operations.

Despite the slight trouble of the blade change, the final cut quality far outweighs the trouble it may take to change a blade. The better thought here is that you get a break from the focus of the work. Relax and just change the blade.

When selecting a blade, consider the width of the kerf. A standard saw blade removes 1/8" of material in a

single pass. When cutting dense woods or thick stock, such as a blade can cause a saw to labor, especially with a motor smaller than 3 hp. A thin-kerf blade, at just 3/32"-thick, overcomes this by removing less material per pass, easing the strain on smaller motors. Plus, it conserves stock: That extra 1/32" may pay off when making multiple cuts in expensive woods such as ebony or cocobolo.

Most blades can be purchased in either standard or thin-kerf configurations. But remember, the thickness of the blade must match the thickness of your saw's riving knife or splitter. Remember that a clean blade is a happy blade. Learn how to remove pitch buildup and gum from your LCWW colleagues. However, take a look at the following.

Cutter Cleaning

Pitch, tar, and resin build up quickly when cutting wood (especially soft woods, such as pine or cypress and can gum up saw blades until they cut like dull ones, leaving behind burn marks and tearout. A few dollars worth of supplies—an oil-change pan or 5-gallon-bucket lid, a brush, and some blade cleaner—combined with a little elbow grease could save you a trip to the sharpening shop. Just follow a simple process to restore your blades. For safety, work in a well-ventilated area and wear gloves and eye protection.

When soaking multiple blades, slide plastic lids (such as those from yogurt or margarine containers) between the blades to prevent the teeth from chipping. Carbide on carbide is not a good combination.

Steel-bristle brushes cut through grime quickly, but they can also damage or dull your blade's carbide teeth. Scrub with nylon or brass brushes instead. Spray or pour the cleaning solution on your blades. Let the blade sit for 15-20 minutes; then scrub the cutting edges and the gullets between the teeth. While there are many commercial products available, oven cleaner is low cost and works.

Wipe the blade dry with a clean cloth; then apply a rust-blocking sealant, such as Bostik BladeCote (no. 124626, woodcraft.com). Of course, you can spray on the universal water displacement product in your shop -- WD-40 -- instead of the Bostik product. They do exactly the same thing and you most always have WD-40 at your disposal.

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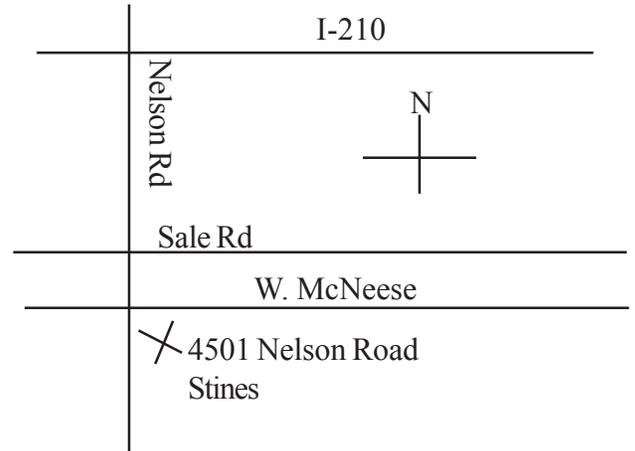
Next month we start collecting those annual dues to keep us going. Bring a Twenty to the next meeting and see Patrick LaPoint. Barry Humphus.

January 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.

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.



November 2017