All the News that fits

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. March 2013

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volenteered 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 Trouth: 583-2683. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

February Meeting Highlights

The meeting last month was held in the shop of Steve Thomas. This is the first time we've met there and we'll do so again in October. Thanks to Steve and Cathy Thomas for hosting this month. We had two guests this month: Percy Thibodeaux and Curtis Poole. Mr. Poole became a new member as well.

Steve's safety discussion was about shop cleanup -- something many of us fail to do on a regular basis. Particularly important is keeping material, power cords, sawdust and shavings off the floor as much as possible as these lead to trips and falls. Remember that sawdust and shavings can be very slippery.

Steve showed us a couple of interesting tips. The first was about the standard marks on most tape measures. The first one at 16 inches is for quickly measuring 16 inch on center framing studs. This is the standard for interior and exterior walls. The second, generally a diamond at 19.2 inches is used for quick markup of pre-made trusses. Steve's second tip was how to use a table saw to level stool or chair legs. He saw this on YouTube.com and mentioned that there are many thousands of demonstration videos on woodworking to be found there.

Next, Steve went through the process and techniques he uses to create his wonderful segmented bowls. He starts with the design and uses a software program that results in the segment angles for the number of segments to be used. The software allows for different bowl diameters, wall thicknesses and much more. Steve next selects the wood and uses a sled on his table saw to cut the many parts (sometimes numbering in the hundreds). This could be done with a miter saw, but the table saw sled turns out to be more accurate and much safer considering the small pieces that result.

For the ring glue-up process, Steve uses a series of large stainless steel hose clamps. A custom turned ram on his lath permits him to glue one layer at a time. The ram is mounted on the tail stock end of the lathe and is cone shaped so it is self-centering. Then he simply runs in the ram to the bowl billet mounted on the head stock and waits for each layer to set and cure.

Once the piece is ready to turn, Steve most often uses a high-quality 1/2 inch bowl gouge plus uses a home-made deep gouge for turning inside the bowl.

Steve mostly uses Poly-Crylic for his finishes with many coats. His lathe is an old one - a 1940s Broadhead-Garrett model J-170. This was actually built by Yates-American but marketed to technical schools under the Broadhead brand. Steve purchased this from a technical school after they closed their program. Note to Steve: you can get a manual from www.ozarkwoodworker.com.

Steve modified his lathe a few years ago by going to a Leeson Speed Master DC motor and control. This gives him a precise speed and lots of power. He has also added a very nice custom dust/shavings collector to this unit.

So Steve provided us with a very interesting program on everything you may need to know to build and turn segmented bowls in under 45 minutes. Many thanks!

In the For Sale forum, Mike Dupis has a Delta Midi Lathe that is only a year old and under-used in his shop. Jim Couvillion has 12 inch surface planer for sale as well. Get in touch with either should you have an interest.

Show and Tell brought us many wonderful items this month. The spectacular crane by Pie Sonnier was the hit of the meeting. Pie said it took some 30 hours to build. The plan was from Toys & Joys. We cannot really tell you in works how wonderful this build was. If you were not there and saw this build, you missed a lot.

Don Elfert brought us a very nice book rack of poplar while Ronnie Kramer displayed a great purple heart and maple cutting board plus a nice little trivet. Russ Conley has built something anyone who has a fireplace needs - a great custom-made fireplace bellows. The cheap ones just don't do the job. This one will. More Show and Tell on the next page.

Coming Up . . . Saturday, March 9 at 9:00 A.M. - Shop of Pie Sonnier. Here you will see the most amazing builds by Pie so join Pie and Joey to enjoy.

Contuned J W . Anderson brought us a great water oak plant stand which was also the Bring Back Item. J.W. makes such beatutiful furniture and does this most every month. Thanks J.W.

Ray Kibodeaux brought us a very nice table of wormy ash. New member Curtis Poole presented a tupolo wood carving of a goose and

rabbit and more. But Ray also brought us some beatiful custom planes he had constructed. These were very special. Joe Comeaux is still turning gifts for his relatives and these

included three great Kaleidoscopes. Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux constructed a very nice bird house built specifically for blue birds that included a waste disposable feature from a plan. Great work Eltee.

Gary Rock brought us some wonderful work as always - a firewood burl oak bowl that was decorated with wood burning and finished with many coats of wipe-on poly. Gary got his wood burning kit from Craft Supply.

John Griffith won the Bring Back Item and Russ Conley won the great Stines gift card.

Joe Comeaux also discussed the future of the Bring Back Item and we agreed that this will continue.

Quality Miters Matter

Few tools can match a mitersaw for portability and quick setup. But the real test for woodworkers comes down to this: Can it make clean, accurate cuts day-in and day-out in a workshop setting?

The answer is a qualified "yes." Right out of the box, most popular brand mitersaws deliver furniture-quality cuts. But even the best saws will yield better results if you put it into action.

From Bosch to Skill, there are a great many compound mier saws on the consumer market.

The compund miter saw gets its name from the fact that it cuts from 45 degrees both left and right. Some models cut beyound these angles so check the model with which you have an interest to make certain this is the capacty you need. But a compound saw also makes angle cuts at least left and in some to the right as well. In general, they go to at least 45 degrees but as above, some models can go beyound this angle. Just make certain that, particularly to the right (that is, a dual bevel saw), you have the needed clearance.

Other considerations are the back fence supports. Good models have movable ones and others are fixed. For small peices, a movable fence comes in handy. In other words, the back fence slides in and out to accomidate short work pieces.

Another consideration are the hold-downs with these units. You could use a clamp from your collection, but a built-in hold-down affords better control and much more safety. Note how they work before you make a purchase and be certain that you understand if they will do the job you need.

One of the things I've added to my Delta compound miter saw is a laser guide. There are some untis that come with these as an option but these are also available as after-market add-ons. These vary in cost from $15 to about $30 and replace the outside (left) large washer. They generally work by switching the laser unit on then running the saw. The force of the turning of the saw lights up the laser. The key is the setup so should you do this add-on. You may have to make slight adjustments for your particular saw but the results are great as you can believe as you will get super accurate cuts on your saw. *Barry Humphus*.

Load the Mobile Casters

If your workshop isn't quite large enough -- and whose is -- you can alleviate a lot of annoyances by making shop equipment mobile. Need to make the best use of your limited space? Want to handle materials more easily? For these and many other problems, the solution just might be as simple as putting something on wheels.

The stem on a typical light-duty furniture caster snaps into a socket. Therefore you must purchase both the caster and the socket. Casters provide a great way to make equipment movable, but using the wrong ones can bring you to a screeching halt.

First consider how heavy the load may be. Begin your quest for the correct caster by determining the weight of the load you'd like to roll around. You don't have to accurately calculate the weight down to the last ounce; a realistic estimate is good enough. When you're estimating, though, be generous. (The manufacturer's shipping weight is a handy figure to use for tools and equipment.)

Take everything into account as you calculate the load. Include not only the weight of the tool, motor, and stand, but also the weight of any accessories -- outfeed rollers or table extensions on a tablesaw, for instance.

Consider your usual shop practices as well. If, for example, you routinely flop full sheets of 3/4" plywood or particleboard onto your tablesaw for cutting, figure on another 100 pounds of load on the casters carrying the saw.

Once you've determined the total weight, divide it by the number of casters you'll be using -- probably four -- to find the minimum load rating necessary for each one. If you want to put four casters on a tablesaw weighing 270 pounds, each will need to support 67 1/2 pounds. You'd be safe buying casters rated at 75 pounds, but ones tagged for a 50-pound limit probably wouldn't hold up well under normal usage.

Determining the caster load this way assumes even weight distribution. But, the weight may be biased. For instance, the headstock end of a lathe weighs more than the tailstock end. To put the lathe on four casters, play things safe by dividing the weight by two or three instead of four. Generally, you can't go wrong choosing heavier-duty casters for any application.

You can attach caster in many ways. Casters commonly mount with either stems Which style to use depends on the item you're mobilizing.

Plate-mount casters are just the ticket for attaching to a solid flat surface, such as the bottom of a box or platform. Legs usually take stem-mount casters.

For a steadier stance, mount the casters as far as possible from the center of the load. Often you can improve balance and stability by attaching them to outriggers.

To install plate-mount casters, simply position the caster, mark the mounting holes, and drill them. Then, attach the caster with nuts, bolts, and washers. The washers are important - always use them for these installations.

To install the socket for a stem-mount caster, drill a hole the size of the socket's outside diameter straight into the bottom of the leg. Drill about 1/4" deeper than the length of the caster stem. Drive the socket into the drilled hole, then snap the caster into it. Non-socketed stem-mount casters fit into a hole the same size as the stem diameter.

Plate-mount casters, available in fixed-wheel and swiveling styles, generally mount with four bolts (but sometime three). Plate size, hole size, and hole spacing vary among different casters. Plate mounted casters are generally ones that can carry more weight than stem types.

There are three types of stems you'll find. The split ring on the shank that holds it in place. The threaded stem screws into a 3/8 - 16 thread on many manufactured items, but could be installed through a hole with a nut and washers. The plain-stem caster fits a socket that has a retaining ring inside.

You can get most of these from standard suppliers such as Rockler, Wood Craft and others. You can also get many different models from local suppliers such as Stines, Lowes and Home Depot. One of the larger collections can be found at the local Harbor Frieght store as well.

George Kuffel and I did a caster job a couple of months ago for his large generator. What we purchased were the inflated wheel casters, a collection of bolts, nuts and washers plus threaded rods for the axels. In an afternoon we put his heavy generator on wheels. If the supplier had a swivel wheel set of casters, we would have added this as well.

In any case, going mobile can be good should your shop have limited space. *Barry Humphus*.

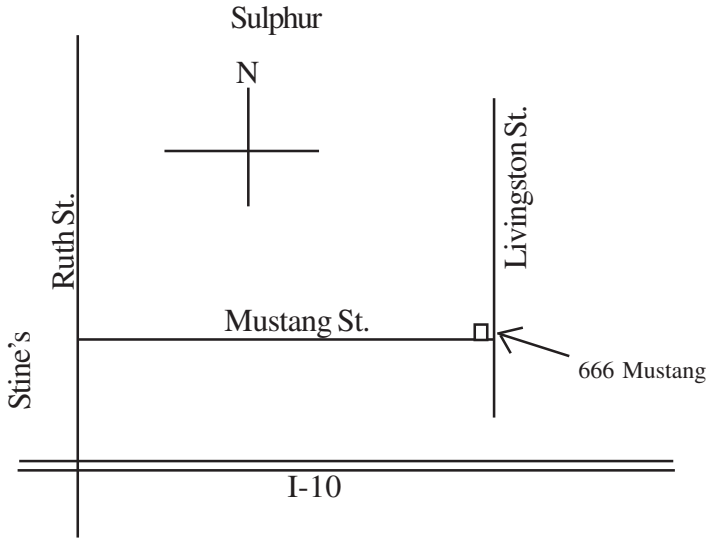
Remember the Date

This may be the last issue of the Lake Charles Woodworkers Newsletter that you receive should you decide not to renew your membership. Come to the next meeting and pay your dues or simply mail the $20 to Treasurer, 6821 Brnbury Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70605.

March Monthly Meeting Location

It is always a wonder to visit the home of Pie and Joey Sonnier. Whule Pie's shop is small, his garage and the covered pourch is large. And then, you can see the wonderful things he does.

To get there, take the Ruth Street exit off I-10 north into Sulphur. Follow Ruth until you get to the old Stine's on your left and look for Mustang St. on your right. Turn right onto Mustang St. Pie and Joey's home is the last house on the left at 666 Mustang before as you get to Livingston. Call Pie or Joey at 527-6171 if you need further directions. The shop is in the back.



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Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc.
www.lcwoodworkers.com
1039 Timberlawn Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70605