All the News that fits

Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Inc. July 2013

Steve Thomas, President
Sandy Kramer, Treasurer

Officers and Directors

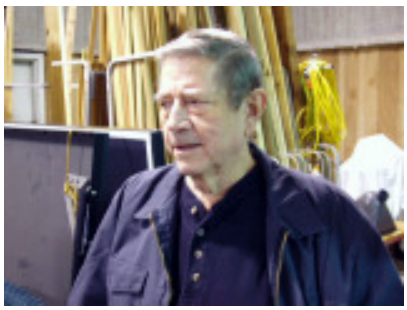
Barry Humphus, Editor, George Kuffel
Gary Rock, Jeff Cormier, Dick Trouth

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have 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.

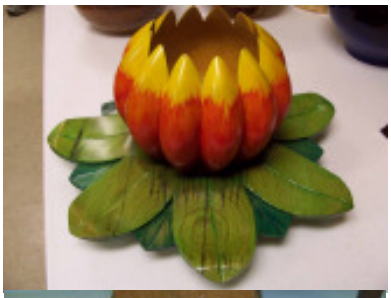
June Meeting Hilights

Joe and Sandra Comeaux were our hosts in June at thier great shop. While the editor could not attend, Steve Thomas was kind enough to take photos of the work presented.

We learned that the last surviving founding member of the Lake Charles Woodworkers Club, Jim Couvillion past away at home June 28. He spent 35 years working for the Bourroughs Corporation (later Unisys) as a banking equipment service engineer. He had a love of woodworking, tools and epecially making rocking horses. During his 78 years, he made over 300 hundred of them for children. The night before Jim's death, he was in his shop working on a rocking horse. One of his sons, Bobby Couvillion will be contacting us in a few weeks and will ask members to meet with him at Jim's shop with the intention of finishing the last of the rocking horses. We will contact members once the date is set. Please keep Lois Couvillion and family in your thoughts.



Show and Tell brought lots of fine work this month. Gary Rock brought a spectacular bowl in the design of a water lilly as well as another great bowl plus a natural edge shallow platter.



Ray Kibodeaux a tall mantel clock case with a mounted clock in what appears to be oak. Pie Sonnier did another very nice decorated box that holds napkin rings.

John Griffith did a wonderful side table of walnut with the 'other' UT logo (University of Tennessee - at least I hope so as I was not present to verify this). John is so skilled, perhaps he will consider doing a Longhorn on one of his great tables.

Mike Dupuis seems to be challenging (or being inspired by) J. W. Anderson with a terrific oak and walnut cutting board plus a smaller cutting board along with two fine wooden spoons.

Jack Stegall did some very good looking religeous crosses from spalted wood including one with a walnut base. Finally, Steve Thomas keeps cutting up very small pieces of wood and making gorgeous bowls out of the precise segments with a box bowl as well as a red and purple segmented vase.

While we could not make it to the June meeting and did not hear Steve's safety presentation, we will suggest a few pointers about jointers. First, there is a limit to the length of a piece that can you pass safely across the cutter on a jointer. Depending on the model, you really do not want to pass a peice too short as it will likely pass from your hands into your face, the ceiling, the back wall of your shop or worse. Make certain that you carefully read the safety instructions and followthe instructions of your particular model.

In general, you should never pass a work piece less than 12 inches long or less than 1/4 inch thick nor 3/4 inch wide across the working cutters. Short peices will be caught and fly away to your regret. I have personally experienced this despite using a good push stick and safety glasses. My problem was not following the proper proceedures for safely working with this power tool.

Another tip is to carefully check the depth of cut before turing on the machine. Use 1/16th cut for clear material or 1/32 for any material with knots. It is almost always better to take lighter cuts and while this may take you a few more minutes to square a work piece, just take the time and be safer. Of course, always have the cutter guard in place and never stand behind the machine. See more about jointers on the next page.

Comming Up . . . Saturday, July 13, 2013 at 9:00 A.M at the great air conditioned shop of George Kuffel. It is big, has lots of tools and George is a great host.

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Master Your Jointer

The jointer does one important thing well. It creates a perfectly flat surface, either on the face of a board, or on the edge (with the face of the board riding against the jointer's fence). When milling rough lumber, the jointer represents the first step, producing one flat face and one straight edge for reference. The board can then move to a planer for thicknessing and the tablesaw to be cut to final width.

To work properly the outfeed table should be set at the exact same height as the blades. The position of the infeed table determines the depth of cut, and multiple passes can be taken to produce a completely flattened surface.

Many woodworking projects require the ability to render a perfectly square edge on a board. There are many ways to perform this task, but nothing matches the performance, precision and repeatability delivered by the motorized jointer. In fact for a small project, there is nothing better than a hand plane or two.

Getting the jointer to deliver its potential is not particularly difficult but, like most things, it requires proper procedure which can be broken down into a few simple but important guidelines. Do it right, and you will be rewarded with a lifetime of better joints. On the other hand, glossing over these techniques can lead to frustration, or worse, serious problems in your projects.

Understanding the jointer that you are working with is critical. Most jointers provide some convenient features that help make the jointing process more predictable. Be sure that you know how to properly adjust the fence, set the depth of cut, changing blades, tension the drive belt, etc. The more familiar you are with the jointer, the more capable you will be of using it properly.

A properly tuned jointer is critical. Use the best straight edge that you may have to ensure that both the infeed and outfeed tables are set as perfectly coplanar (parallel) as you can achieve. Refer to your owner's manual to guide you through any adjustments if necessary.

Set the fence to a perfectly square position using a machinists' square or digital angle gauge. Without a square fence a jointer will simply drive you nuts, and will not be worth the footprint that it consumes in your shop.

Your jointer's capacity boundaries will be limited by the length and width of its beds. For safety reasons you need to set a lower limit on the size of board you will run through the jointer. Check your jointer's manual for specifics, but in most cases the smallest recommended piece will be in the range of ½" thick x 2" wide x 12" long. Don't allow yourself to give in to the temptation of milling smaller stock. In fact, see our safety suggestions on the previous page.

The upper limits of what your jointer can handle is more of a quality than a safety issue. My suggestion here is to limit the length of board to no more than twice the length of your infeed table. A quick test for this is to set the board on the infeed table and if it balances you should be able to achieve a straight edge with proper technique. If you run into a situation where you need to joint a board longer than your jointer is capable of, I suggest using a router and straight edge, which is tedious but works very well. I am not a fan of trying to configure auxiliary infeed/outfeed tables for a jointer as it is difficult to consistently produce good results.

Set the depth of cut so that it makes noticeable progress with each pass but does not burden the motor. You should normally set the depth of cut on my jointer to approximately 1/32", and commonly need to make two passes to remove enough stock to produce a perfectly square edge. I would suggest take a very conservative approach and not distress the machine, as the additional time investment is minimal and you will find that you get a better result with more light passes than with one heavy pass.

The direction that grain is running in your stock can affect the surface quality of your jointed edge. The result can range from virtually no effect to dramatic, depending on wood species, sharpness of knives, depth of cut and feed rate. I generally don't bother reading the grain for edge jointing unless I am encountering a problem or a knot because most of the time when I am edge jointing the surface will not be exposed in the finished project.

But if you experience chatter or tearout as you are jointing, it is important to understand how to read the grain to minimize or eliminate the effect.

To do so, determine the general direction of the grain on your piece, and think about the grain extended past the edge of the board in the form of hair on a dog. When you pet a cat (or dog), you always want to stroke in the direction that the hair is running, that is from front to back. When jointing a board you want to have the grain direction at the edge pointing toward the tail end of the board as it moves through the jointer.

Before edge jointing, face joint your stock so that you have a flat face to place against the jointers fence as you edge joint. Skipping this stop can lead to both quality and safety issues.

After you face joint you should determine which edge to joint unless both will be jointed. If only jointing one, I suggest that you choose to place the concave edge down on the jointer bed as this forces a constant reference surface

Continued on the next page . . .

Jointers Contined From Page 2
that is defined by the two end points. The downside of this approach is that if the board's crook is too severe it can tip the leading edge of the board into the cutterhead causing the board to be stopped abruptly by the outfeed table or causing snipe to occur. This is a serious safety concern as well asof course a quality issue. When you have severe crook to contend with you need to follow the next steps prior to continuing with your jointer.

If a board has too much crook to it to allow for safe jointing, use a straight edge to draw a straight line that removes the minimize amount of stock necessary to establish a straight edge. You need to start with a 1/32 inch cut just to make it safe. Once you do a pass at 1/32 inch cut, proceed with a deeper cut as needed.

Then cut to the line as closely as possible using a band saw, creating an edge that will be safe to run through the jointer. Then return to the jointer to perfect the edge.

Even though you have squared up your fence, assume that it isn't perfect. When jointing multiple boards to form a panel, a small deviation from square can have a compounding effect and cause real problems with your glue-up. To prevent this, arrange the boards for your panel based upon best appearance, and then mark the tops of every other board indicating the face that will ride against the fence. Then flip the non-marked boards and mark the other side. When you take the stock to the jointer remember to always place the marked face against the fence and you will produce complementary angles at glue-up time. To get a perfectly flat glue-up you don't need to mate two 90 degree angles, you simply need two angles that add up to 180 degrees. Therefore, 92+88 works as well as 90+90.

Start by placing your board against the fence with the desired edge on the table. This is a good time to double check that the board sits flat against the fence and does not appear to be twisted.

With your left hand on the top edge near the front of the board, maintain pressure both downward and toward the fence. Don't overdo it with the down pressure. The goal is not to flex the board flat, but rather to simply control it as it passes the cutterhead. Pushing down too aggressively will distort the board, resulting in a concave edge when you have completed the pass.

As your left hand passes over the cutterhead, lock it into position a few inches past the cutterhead. You have now changed from using the infeed table to the outfeed table as your reference surface. This transition should be smooth, and this is where many jointing procedure problems occur. After making this transition the left hand should remain in the same position for the duration of the cut, maintaining both downward pressure as well as holding the board firmly against the fence.

At this time your right hand should continue with steady feed pressure as well as pressure toward the fence. Maintain a steady feed rate. Listen to the machine and don't bog it down. Feeding stock too quickly can also result in a rippled surface finish. If you are more comfortable feeding the stock using a push block, feel free to do so, especially for narrower stock.

Producing a seamless glue joint doesn't have to be a daunting task. Following these simple procedures will enable you to consistently produce perfect edges on your boards, eliminating frustration and quality problems in your projects. Barry Humphus.


Steve Thomas


Jack Stegall



Pie Sonnie



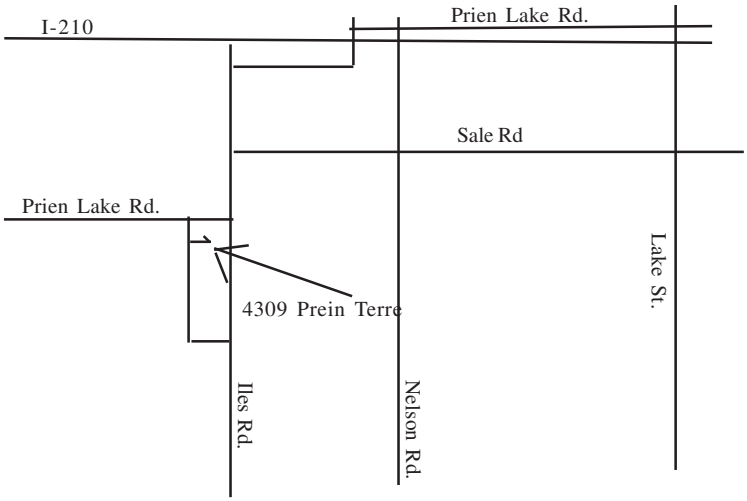
Gary Rock


Ray Kibodeaux

Our Next Meeting Location

George and Nancy Kuffel will host the October meeting at their shop. George loves jigs and tools and perhaps he will tell the tale of a few of them.

To get there, see the map at right or give them a call for more information at 337-478-2707.To get there from Lake Charles, follow Sale Rd.west to Prien Lake Rd. Turn left at the light and follow Prien Lake as it takes a right turn where it joins Iles Rd. Prien Terre is the first left and the first driveway on your left is George's drive at 4309 Prien Terre Rd.



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July 2013

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