

Southwest Louisiana Woodworkers Club February 2020

Bill Fey, President
Patrick LaPoint Treasurer

Officers and Directors

Barry Humphus, Editor, Eltee Thibodeaux
Daren Hood, John Marcon, Robin Richard

Mentoring Program - If you have a project, a problem in any woodworking area, these members have volunteered to help. Give them a call. Frank Tartarmella 802-8989; John Marcon: 478-0646; Eltee Thibodeaux: 436-1997; Ray Kebodeaux: 583-2378. Each have years of experience and knowledge.

January Meeting Highlights

This month we had the great opportunity to meet at the great shop of Travis McManemin. This is a very nice and very well equipped shop and we enjoyed the experience. Thanks, Travis.

For Show and Tell, Mr. Eltee Thibodeaux started us off with a lovely knife the blade of which was made by Mr. Newman from spring steel. Eltee engraved the blade with a woodpecker motif Eltee also had a nice little truck and trailer. He said it gets about 6mpg.

J.W. Anderson continues to make these wonderful wooden knives. This one was a two blade of box mahogany finished with wipe-on poly. His other item was a sweet box



of mahogany with splines and finished with wipe-on poly..

George Carr did a bread board

with a chicken motif carved that was chipped carved. The design was from a New York artist named Gotti

Ronnie Kramer brought us a great chess/checker board of maple and oak. He ebonized the oak which is very easy to do as well as walnut. Both woods have a great deal of tannic acid and thus absorb iron as an ebonize. You should try this. Ronnie is building a canford board as a gift.

Travis McManemin showed us a glue squeezer with a handle It has two handles and does a great job for squeezing glue onto you project.

Kyle Aaron is doing the Facebook site for the Club but he will block out our phone numbers. For Club business the idea is to increase Club membership. In fact, from the main web site, we have at least two requests from potential members per month and we send them the current Newsletter with an invitation to attend the next meeting.

Bill Fey mentioned that many volunteer organizations have had trouble recruiting new memberships over the past few years from all age groups. This is likely due to the bloom of the Internet's World Wide Web as so much information is

available. Using social media such as Facebook is one way we can connect with potential new members and we appreciate Kyle Andrepont's work on this.

Jack Steggal suggested that we contact the Lake Charles Historic City Hall to possibly display work as well as try to do demonstrations at each meeting as possible. If you have photos of your work, please send them to Kyle so that he may include them on the Facebook page to show the world what we do. The person at the LC Historic City Hall is Carol (but we do not know her last name).

Travis mentioned that he is selling a nice router system, so contact him should you have an interest. Contact him should have an interest.

John Griffith did a great demonstration of vacuum pressing of veneer. He talked about how to construct the vacuum frame - capable of 14.7 pounds per square inch. He uses Titebond veneer glue and coats the piece with shellac as a sealer to prevent the glue from going into the wrong places. Once the veneer sets in the glue, he removes the frame and uses a J-roller to press out any imperfections on the surface of the piece. The piece has to sit in the press for a couple of hours.

I once built a vacuum press with the late Vince Vincent. Vince tried it but didn't like the results (it was not as sophisticated as John's). Vince went back to hundreds of veneer pins.



Coming Up . . . Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. at the shop of Ray Kebodeaux.

Choosing Small Router Bits

Bigger is normally regarded as better, and often that is quite a justifiable position. Larger router bits can handle higher loads, have more chunky carbides, can handle higher feed rates. But they cannot do everything.

Something I have been struggling with for a while, and especially when working with smaller designs is that the large router bits are, well, too large. When pattern copying a fine design for example, the large bearing rounds off a lot of the detail. So it is with definite interest I discovered the miniature router bits from Toolstoday.com. Note that the local supplier Poussons also carries a selection of small router bits.

The bearings are 3/16" (4.76mm), so it is capable of really getting into tight spaces. Some other small router bits use a non-bearing pin to achieve this, but this leaves the guide pin rubbing against the workpiece at 20,000rpm, the friction of which quickly leads to heat buildup, and burning of the edge.

There are a number of different profiles in the range, so it isn't just a matter of being able to copy more intricate patterns with a straight bit, but also being able to apply edge treatments in tight spaces. The mini router bits are 1/4", so able to fit in standard routers either directly, or with a 1/2" – 1/4" collet. For these shafts, you may want to use a Dremel tool.

The flush trim bit is always an integral one for a set – it is particularly potent when used to duplicate a template. You may choose to use this miniature version in combination with its bigger brother. The larger one can cut the majority of the outline around the template, then follow up with the miniature one to push right into the detail areas. Might as well not force the bit to do any more work than necessary.

The miniature rabbit bit would be useful in making small boxes, and very small picture frames.

The first of the edge treatment bits, the miniature chamfer bit can be used for edging, and producing a miter joint. While most produces a 45° chamfer other chamfer angles are available. For example there is a second one in the range that produces a subtle 7° chamfer.

A couple of different radius miniature round over (corner round) bits are available. These are particularly useful in toy making, used to soften edges of toys. And the classic profile, the miniature roman ogee router bit.

The profiles may be no different to the other common ones in your router bit set, but the size will make a big difference in what you can achieve, in situations where you would have had to find an alternate (and often with a compromised finish) option.



These tools are not meant to be 'cute', but these miniature bits are, at least as far as any router bit can be! So if you want to shrink your router bits, you can either get an electromagnetic shrink ray from the '80s, or get these from Toolstoday.com or locally at Poussons.

A Dado Bit for Your Router

The router table has always been particularly good for cutting a groove, particularly in smaller items (such as making boxes). The orientation of the blade to the timber for one, the diameter of the blade (vs a tablesaw), the speed of the cutter, the accuracy in setup. The one frustration I have found is having to accept the width of the groove is limited to the width of the cutter of the router bit, or having to take multiple passes. Unlike a tablesaw, the concept of a dado blade is foreign to the router table.

Toolstoday.com and others have available a really interesting router bit indeed. It is an EZ Dial Slot Cutter, and unlike a tablesaw dado blade stack, this router bit does not have shims, or even need to be taken apart and reassembled.

Looking at the anatomy of the router bit, from the top-down. The top threaded section is the range of adjustment of the router bit, and there are two types available – a 1/8" – 1/4", and a 1/4" – 1/2". Next is the locking nut – once the width of the slot is set. The knurled knob is the adjustment for the router bit, and is then locked in position with the locking nut. The blade is next – it is a four-flute router bit, but because of the adjustment, each side of the trench is cut with two of the flutes. As the knurled adjustment knob is turned, two of the flutes move with the knob, and the other two remain fixed.

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A Dado Bit for Your Router continues

A bearing then sits under the flutes – useful when following curves, and other times a router fence is not in use. Just below that is a section with two flats – this is useful if the locking nut is too tight – a spanner can be fit on this section so it can be undone without having to risk damage to the router chuck or shaft lock.

Finally, the shaft is a finely finished, accurate 1/2" shaft. (An inaccurate shaft is either difficult to fit the router collet if too large, or at risk of slipping if too small).

That dial-in adjustment is remarkably liberating. Being able to set the width of the resulting slot to accurately match the material that will fit in it (whether that be another piece of timber, a sheet of glass etc), and also easy to add an accurate amount of clearance if required.

Not only can the width of the slot be set, but it can be adjusted with the router bit fixed in the router. (So long as you intend to remove more material – too hard to put material back!) Rather than trying to work out the range to move the router up and down again, a test cut or two, a dial-in of width, and your accuracy and flexibility of the table is increased dramatically. Once you experience the convenience of a shim-less, dial in width of slot for a router bit, you'll be wishing a tablesaw dado blade was as easy, as infinitely adjustable, and as accurate. BTW, these bits are about \$150, so make sure if this is what you need.

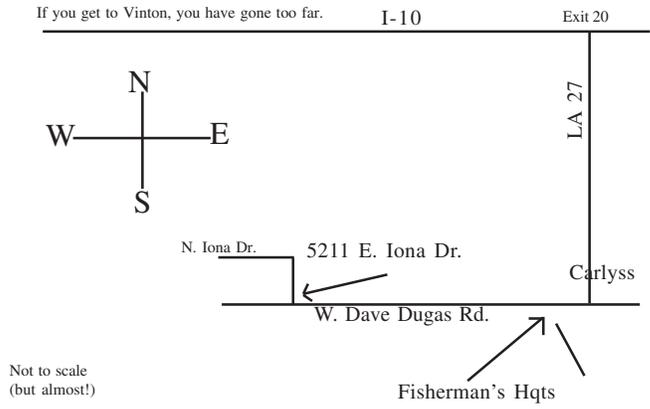


February Meeting Location

We have the wonderful opportunity to meet at the shop of long time member Ray Kebodeaux for the first time.

To get there, go West on I-10 to the main Sulphur exit 20 (LA 27) and go South all the way to West Dave Dugas Road (see Fishermans Headquarters on your left as you turn right) and turn right. Go past Thompson Rd and take the next right - East Iona Drive. Ray's home will be on your right at 5211 East Iona Dr., Sulphur, LA 70665. For the GPS users, it is at 30.169540 by -93.414330

Should you need further directions, please call Ray at 337-583-2378.



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