

LAKE CHARLES WOODWORKERS CLUB

John Marcon, President

Whitney Derise, President Elect

Bob Ferguson, Treas. & Newsletter Editor

NOVEMBER 1996

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

the October meeting was held in Dr. Mike Kent's new shop with 17 persons attending. Our appreciation goes to Mike for his hospitality.

Mike showed us the features of his shop which included a Delta Unisaw, a Delta jointer/planer, a Sears 10" radial saw with a special sliding stop, and a Sears oscillating sander. Mike was proud of the homemade workbench which he claims is more functional than the standard variety with special hold downs and a twin screw vise on one end.

A recently completed project was a special router table modeled by Norm Abrams in the Old Yankee Workshop. Several special features include small tool drawers, a closed router chamber which facilitates wooddust extraction, a special external adjustment knob which permits easy adjustment of the router height, and finally, a special switch which also controls the dust collection system when the router is activated.

Mike's current project is the creation of a sliding miter box table for his table saw which will accommodate up to 24" plywood panels.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are looking forward to a productive year with, hopefully, the introduction of a few new features to enhance our club program. With the assistance of the steering committee, we plan to stress technical subjects. Some of the subjects to be covered include the following:

- Glues and Joints
- Finishing and Furniture Restoration
- Wood Carving
- Saws of Various Types
- Metallurgy (*For the layman*)
- Dollhouses
- Shop Math & Job Layout
- Japanese Handtools
- Tool Sharpening

In the late spring we will be planning a special evening meeting with our spouses. We appreciate their support and with their tolerating our sawdust, noise, etc. and we hope to make it a fun night for all.

It should be obvious from the above potential agenda and the fact that our membership is large and our meeting places are becoming progressively smaller (figuratively speaking, of course) that we shall have to utilize larger meeting places (such as the Calcasieu Public Library, or others) where some cost is entailed. Our finances currently limit us primarily to production of the monthly newsletter.

Therefore, **we shall propose at the November meeting that our annual dues be increased from \$10 to \$15.** Please note that this is less than the subscription price for any one of the woodworking magazine which come into our homes and yet we probably benefit just as much, if not more so, from our club participation.

For the record, there has been some comments made about possibly limiting our membership growth because of the limitations in our meeting places. The steering committee believes that increasing our ability to obtain larger meeting places by increasing the dues is a more reasonable approach than limiting membership. Therefore, **we will not propose limiting the membership growth.** Bring on your new members.

NEXT MEETING

November 9, 1996, 9:00 am in the shop of

Lawrence Walker
1800 22nd Street
Lake Charles, LA

FUTURE MEETINGS

Dec. 14 Norman Robinson

SHOW AND TELL

Ron Stowe and **Bill Tolin** announced that they have held special wood turners workshops on Sept. 21 and on Oct. 19 at Ron's shop. The latest was attended by eight persons who each had an opportunity at hands-on turning with tools, including the skew, large gouge and super flute. There were discussions of tools, their selection and sharpening plus a showing of a variety of chucks. Both meetings were considered very successful.

The next meeting of the group will be on the third Saturday, November 16, 1996, at 9:00 am at Ron's shop at 1711 8th Street in Lake Charles. No reservations are required. If interested in participating, call Ron at 436-5952.

Dudley Harvey told of the discount opportunity available to woodworkers at the **McCown Paint & Supply** at 1725 W. Sale Rd. in Lake Charles. He also made available brochures on a line of Pittsburgh Paint stains.

Bill Tolin showed a new type of turned jewelry: Bracelets with embedded brass copper.

John Marcon showed an example of his woodcarving. He presented a large hand carved plaque of the Frazer (his wife's maiden name) coat of arms in basswood. Requiring 60 man hours to complete, it was stained with a water soluble aniline stain and then polished, first with Watco liquid wax and then Brewax for the high luster.

John reminded us that **Watco is back in business** after earlier withdrawing their products from the market.

DECEMBER MEETING

We are looking forward to the possibility that many of those attending the December (Christmas) meeting will go home with a door prize which was made by der liddle old woodworker. If you have not made something for the event, you still have time to do so. Remember that the ladies are invited so that items with a feminine flair are welcome.

Please. This is not a condition of your attending this annual meeting. Please come even if you are unable to create a small item for the event. We will take as many items as we receive and spread them as far as they will go.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As soon as the new dues level is established at the November meeting, the dues renewal process will begin. We hope to complete the process in several

months, so keep it in mind. Also, if you have not submitted a signed liability release, plan to do so.

WOODWORKING MAGAZINES

We are building the list of woodworking magazines currently being received by our members. The following is the list to date. Can you add to it?

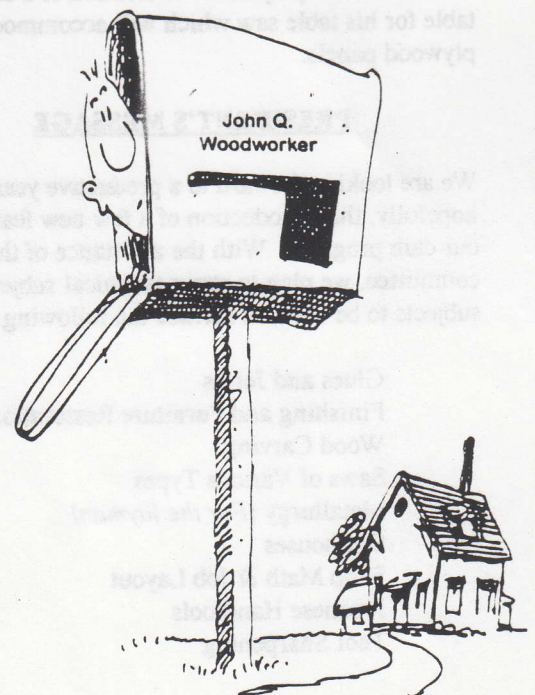
Better Homes and Gardens WOOD
Fine Woodworking
Fine Woodworking's Home Furniture
Today's Woodworker
Woodsmith
Woodwork
American Woodworker } from Mike Kent
ShopNotes } " " "

John Marcon reports that he is working with the Calcasieu Parish Library and he is hopeful that they will soon be able to provide us with a list of all the woodworking books in the library.

Treasurer's Report

Members	59
Treasury Balance	\$ 276

WOODWORKERS IN ACTION!



Waiting for
some orders

This Old Virtual House

Edited by Barry Humphus

In recent years, the do-it-yourself craze has not only fostered the success of hardware-store chains such as Lowes and Home Depot but has also created a vibrant side industry in the media. Having just bought a home and am living proof that one can survive such activity, I thought I would bring you up-to-date on what is going on on the home-improvement front in Internet Land.

Television shows like *This Old House*, *Hometime* and *New Yankee Workshop* have extremely loyal followings, drawing week-end contractors and armchair home-improvement enthusiasts who relax by watching others do the work. It is only logical, then, that sites on the World Wide Web would crop up to tap this market. Home-improvement suppliers are just beginning to make their mark on the Internet, while the popular television shows are already fully established on the Web, with useful sites offering detailed instructions on projects ranging from fixing a clogged drain to building a new kitchen.

The two most sophisticated sites are ones tied to the popular home-improvement shows. *This Old House* bases its Web site (<http://www.pathfinder.com/TOH/>) on the show's multi-episode home-remodeling projects, which often involve the complete renovation of a teetering but nonetheless charming house. Unlike the show, however, the site lets you stop and breathe; it offers useful graphics that explain the inner workings of a house, and describes the problems that can crop up in any renovation, like the nasty dilemma of wood-boring insects. But the advice is not exhaustive: A page on renovating a bathroom, for instance, offers an overview of the project but then concentrates mainly on tiling, giving short shrift to essentials such as plumbing. The site also estimates the prices of certain projects and supplies, and offers short bibliographies explaining where people can get more information on a specific project — two features that are lacking on the television show. For someone not in the contracting business, such information can be indispensable. The site also has links to major suppliers of home-building products.

A more logically arranged home-improvement site is run by *Hometime*. The site (<http://www.hometime.com/>) is divided into two-dozen categories based on the individual project, including areas such as drywall, bath rooms and plumbing. These categories are then subdivided further, with budding electricians, for instance, able to click on instructions to install a light fixture or run electrical cable.

While the *Hometime* page appears to have a wider breadth of projects and is more navigable than the *This Old House* site, it does not have many of the detailed pictures and diagrams — that are necessary for any novice attempting the often intricate work of remodeling a house. The *Hometime* site does have an interactive feature, a users' forum that do-it-yourselfers can visit to exchange tips on projects.

One site, Hardwareworld (<http://www.hardwareworld.com>), offers an exhaustive listing of hardware and home-improvement links. The range is already staggering, offering everything from Black & Decker's home page (<http://www.blackanddecker.com>) to such obscure, curious titles as "The Story of Velcro."

Other sites just help home remodelers familiarize themselves with the arcana of the industry. Nothing is more frustrating than listening to contractors using industry lingo about the work you need done. Then comes their astronomical estimate. For window buyers, for instance, Pella Windows has an attractively designed site (<http://www.pella.com/>) that defines "cladding," "jamb liner" and "Low-E glass," among other industry terms. In addition, the page gives rudimentary instructions on installing a window, potentially saving homeowners hundreds of dollars on one of the more expensive remodeling tasks.

Other suppliers, though, have made surprisingly halfhearted attempts to reach out on the Internet. Home Depot, more than perhaps any other company, has prospered from the growing home-improvement industry, even going so far as to offer classes for its customers. But it has a surprisingly anemic site (<http://www.homeDepot.com/>), focusing on such things as where to find the nearest store.

The growth of these sites is no surprise. In recent years even smaller contractors have been finding that computers are an invaluable tool in helping them redesign rooms before starting work.