

The Wood Rack



Newsletter, September, 1998

Volume 10 Number 1

Next Meeting - Wed., Sept. 2 Brush Barn - 7:30 PM

The first LIWC meeting of the year will feature the popular speaker Sal Marino, who will give a presentation on inlays. On September 26, Sal will do a full day seminar on finishing.

President's Message

I hope everyone had a good summer. I'd like to thank Father Garrett Long and the boys from Chaminade High School for once again making our Barbecue and Woodworking Contest a huge success.

For the first time since being formed, the LIWC enjoyed summer meetings. We feel the meetings were successful with about 60-75 members at both the July and August dates. Looks like this will be something to do each summer, but that's up to you, the members! Let's get some feedback on this!

Shirts, jackets and hats have come in for those who didn't pick them up yet.

Any members who took woodworking classes this summer are invited to share their experiences with the club.

Reminder: Please wear NAME TAGS at meetings.

-- Charlie Felsen

Editor's Note

Anyone who wishes to contribute copy for the newsletter should send it to the Editor, Jim Cosgrove, at 3570 Manchester Road, Wantagh, NY 11793. Phone: 781-4304. E-mail: JCCOSG@compuserve.com

Notes from the Program Committee

The July meeting was presented by cabinetmaker and former member Jay Seligman. It was very informative. Jay has a lot of knowledge to share, and at this meeting the subject was European hinges and hardware. Copies of the outline Jay used for his presentation will be available to members at the September meeting. Jay left some information on sources for European hardware.

Allied Hardware. 1-718-337-3000
Dave Sanders. 1-516-377-8530
Eveready Hardware. 1-718-388-6240
Woodworkers Store. 1-800-279-4441

At the August meeting, member Gabe Jaen gave a presentation on Shaker furniture. A little Shaker history along with Gabe's relaxed and knowledgeable talk completed our summer schedule.

On Saturday, August 15, Ian Kirby gave another full day seminar at the barn. The subject was the tablesaw, jigs, and fixtures. We will consider repeating this seminar at a later date if interest justifies it. Thanks to Brian Monks for the use of his tablesaw and Charlie James for the van.

The Sal Marino Finishing Seminar on September 26 will cost \$35 (with lunch). Contact Steve Costello (427-8070) or Brian Hayward (549-9096).

We will try to reschedule the Frank Pollaro seminar that had to be cancelled in June probably sometime in October or November. (Any suggestions?)

The Third Annual Members' Exhibition is set

for Saturday, October 24. Looks like it will be a full house again. Lots of exhibitors at the picnic expressed interest in exhibiting, and we would like to get commitments as soon as possible. We need as much information about the projects as possible so that we can order whatever materials we need to display them properly. Remember, this is a members' expo and your help and involvement is important to a successful event. We expect a larger public turnout this year (We maintained a mailing list from last year.), and some members are sure to get some sales or commissions!

Other upcoming events are

Nov. 6,7,8 -- American Woodworker Show in Fort Washington, PA. (According to some reliable sources, this could be the last one.)

Dec. 2 -- Annual Toys for Tots Program. Start planning now. See Jim Clancy for info.

Dec. 12 -- Ernie Conover -- Lathe
Dec. 13 -- Ernie Conover -- Router

Also, look for additional open shop days. The first one met at Charlie James' shop in June and the hope is that we can keep this program going on a regular basis. Thanks to Brian Monks, who graciously agreed to chair this activity. See Brian (582-9027) if you are interested.

-- Bob Urso

LIWC Annual Exhibit -- A Plea!

As most of you are probably already aware, this year we are adding a new feature to our annual exhibit of our members' work. We are hoping to show various jigs and fixtures used in the shops of our members. However, we want to feature jigs/fixtures which the members have made themselves rather than those they may have purchased. (Of course there's no problem with using off-the-shelf hardware in making the jig.)

The show, as you all know, is Saturday, Oct. 24; therefore, we really need to know before the October meeting so we can plan the layout. We will be using the stage at the Brush Barn for this

phase of the exhibit, so look around your shop. Something that you think of as routine may be an entirely new idea for another woodworker.

If you can help improve our Annual Exhibit by loaning one or more of your jigs/fixtures, please call Graham Kelly at 234-5379 or contact any other member of the Exhibit Committee. Thanks!

-- Graham Kelly

Ian Kirby Seminar -- Tablesaw "Its Care and Feeding"

Once again, on Sat. Aug. 15th, the LIWC hosted Ian Kirby for a full-day seminar on the tablesaw. Approximately thirty members assembled at the Brush Barn at 9 o'clock. As usual there were refreshments available, coffee and bagels with all the trimmings. In addition to the materials that Ian brought with him, Brian Monks loaned his contractor's tablesaw (JET 10 inch) for Ian to use in his demonstrations.

Most of the morning was spent instructing the attendees in the very real need for safety and how the basic tablesaw is tuned. Although there was some discussion of Tabletop and Cabinet Saws, Ian concentrated his remarks on the Contractor's Saw. He pointed out that while these saws come equipped with a splitter (riving knife) and top guard, poor design leads many of us to remove them. (The writer is guilty in this respect.) He noted that while a splitter that moves up/down with the blade is best, any splitter which is properly aligned with the blade and is used in all ripping operations will eliminate the ever-present danger of "kick-back." After-market splitters (one by Delta, Catalogue No. 78-963) and top guards are available. The better top guards are those models which do not touch the wood and are made of Lexan, allowing the operator to see the wood.

Ian pointed out that a tablesaw performs four operations: ripping solid wood, cutting manmade sheet materials (msm), cross-cutting, and finally shaping. The first three are clear enough, but shaping required some definition. Shaping is any action which does not cut the

wood into separate pieces but rather shapes a portion of it, i.e., a groove, a rabbet or perhaps using a molding head cutter to shape the edges of a board which are subsequently ripped off for use as applied mouldings.

When cutting solid wood with a tablesaw, you must be aware that the wood can and most likely will distort. This distortion is caused by the difference in shrinkage rates tangentially and radially. The four forms of distortion are cup, bow, spring, and twist. The accessory that is most critical in ripping after the splitter is the fence, and here again in the case of contractor saws after-market types are available and superior to the ones that usually come with the saw. Ian stressed one important point. When ripping solid wood, the fence should not run fully across the saw table but rather should stop at the center of the blade. This can be accomplished by using an auxiliary fence piece if your regular fence is not adjustable front-to-back. Also, you must always have available and use push-sticks.

The discussion then concentrated on proper operator positions and feeding during any of the four operations. You must always be conscious of your position and of maintaining contact between the reference edge/face and the fence or miter gage.

The discussion finally turned to the use of shop-made jigs. Ian had earlier made the point that due to the distortion caused when a contractor saw is tilted, he feels that it's better to adjust the saw blade parallel to the miter gage grooves and at a right angle to the table top and to use jigs for any angled ripping cuts. He showed us some of these jigs and how to make them using MDF. He also showed a jig for shaping tenons on the tablesaw.

There was a detailed discussion of blades, concentrating on the various tip configurations. But the bottom line was that an alternate tooth bevel (ATB) was the best choice for general woodworking. The more important factor here is to make sure the saw blade is properly sharpened.

The seminar was broken into two sessions, morning and afternoon. And as usual, we had a substantial and delicious luncheon of heroes,

salads, and soda. I must confess that I thought I "knew-it-all" when it came to a tablesaw, but once again I and everyone else, I believe, benefitted from Ian's years of experience and expertise as a teacher. I look forward with great anticipation to his next seminar. I might add that copies of his new tablesaw book were available, and it really amplifies the seminar.

-- Graham Kelly

Shaker Furniture by Gabe Jaen

At the meeting on August 5, LIWC member Gabe Jaen gave a presentation on Shaker furniture.

When I took a seminar on furniture making, the presenter (Ian Kirby) mentioned how frame and panel construction influenced furniture making. Likewise, Gabe Jaen discussed how the Shaker religion, philosophy and lifestyle created the Shaker design. The Shakers believed in functional and not decorative style furniture. Since many of their cabinets were tall, they made foot stalls in order to get to the top drawers. The back legs of these stalls had a substantial slope so as to change the center of gravity and thus bring more stability. Gabe mentioned that the Shakers developed the table saw from watching a spinning wheel. Last Saturday Ian Kirby disputed this fact and credited the invention to an Englishman. (Anybody want to research this?)

There were two examples of Shaker furniture displayed. One was a circular cherry table brought in by Gaspare Albanese and a tall pine pantry made by Gabe. Gabe showed us a "stupid" final mistake that he made (Haven't we all?) that resulted in his having to make another one for a customer. Those of you who missed this interesting presentation will never know what this mistake was.

Though Gabe had made substantial notes, he didn't have to refer to them since he had such a firm grasp of the topic. Gabe began his talk by stating that he was hoping that his presentation would encourage other members to share their knowledge and experiences by offering to present. A very nice job, Gabe. It was interesting, informative and presented in a

casual, assured manner. Thank you.

-- Brian Hayward

Important Messages

Jesada Router Bits: I hope everyone enjoyed the big savings we received from Jesada Tools on their fine router bits. I would like to thank Ken LeGrow for the help he gave me in making up the order.

Toys for Tots: Get ready and start planning those Toys for Tots. All toys will be due at the December meeting. Thank you.

-- Jim Clancy (822-8250)

Market Place

For Sale: Kerosene Space Heater; Aladdin Model J280. Excl. Cond. Manual & orig. carton. Ideal for shop. Asking \$80.00.

Craftsman 1/2" Drill Press Adapter Stand Mod. No. 335.25987. Convert your 1/2" Drill to a drill press configuration. \$35.00. Graham Kelly - 234-5379.

For Sale: 6" Craftsman Jointer with stand. Excl. Cond. \$225. Bill Hermanek - 360-1216.

For Sale: *American Woodworker* magazine, issues 26-64, great condition. \$120.00. Roger Schroeder - 691-2095.

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