

The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

December 1995

Volume 7, Number 4

Next Meeting -- December 6
Smithtown Barn
7:30 P.M.

Remember Toys for Tots.

President's Message

I felt it was appropriate this month to write a President's Message to all members on what's going on with the club. First we'll start with the November meeting. For anyone who didn't attend, I just want you to know you missed a great talk. The speaker started out with a slide presentation of some of the best works that he's done for clients on Long Island. He then talked about the tools and woods for doing sign carving and then actually demonstrated carving in a piece of redwood and then in oak. Many questions were asked by the audience and, judging by their response, they were a very appreciative crowd.

As far as I know, this was the largest attendance at a LIWC meeting, with almost 70 members. At this meeting alone we had eight new members join and three re-ups, raising the total membership to 90. I feel that this is an

excellent sign, and it shows the club is moving in the right direction. I'd like to especially thank Charlie Felsen for doing some great promoting of the club in local newspapers and national woodworking magazines. I see it is starting to pay off with the increase in membership. Keep up the good work, Charlie.

I would appreciate hearing from any members about programming or any other suggestions you might have that would strengthen the club and make it more beneficial to all.

For those of you who didn't attend the tour of Roberts Plywood, again you missed a super LIWC event. I won't go any deeper into this program because Graham Kelly will fill you in later on in the newsletter. Hopefully we'll get a representative from Roberts Plywood to give a lecture at the Barn in the near future.

Remember that before we have our guest speaker give his or her presentation we encourage our membership to talk about any tool or machinery just bought or project they're working on or have completed or any other phase of woodworking they'd like to share with th

membership. Roger Schroeder gave a super presentation on a Victorian style clock he made from quarter sawn oak, and Brian Hayward showed us the circular saw jig he made. Those are the things that are great to share with your fellow club members. So remember it doesn't matter how small or large the topic is, just share it with the rest of us.

I'm really excited about this month's program. We will have the Marines come down to the Brush Barn to receive the toys that we have made, so remember to bring them down to this meeting. It's the only chance you'll have to give them to them. I'm asking anyone who might have a camera or camcorder to bring it down to the meeting so we have this event recorded.

So I hope everyone can make it down to the December meeting to make this the best attended meeting to date and to give some great toys to some needy children.

Happy Holidays,
Bill Hermanek

Exhibition '96

This coming year the Long Island woodworkers will hold an exhibition of our woodworking talents to be held at the end of March. This show will be open to any member of the club who would like to exhibit a cabinet, a toy, a chair, a clock, a fancy box, or even a piece of wood sculpture. This will be the first of what we intend to be an

annual event.

Our intent is that all levels of woodworking skills that go into a variety of projects will be on exhibit at the Brush Barn. We also hope that this show, which will be free to the public, will generate a following on Long Island, help increase our membership, and give us the publicity that a club of this kind needs.

The executive board continues to work on the logistics of putting on such an event: how to bring pieces to Smithtown, how best to display our work, and how to spread the word about the exhibition. More information will come to you through the meetings and the newsletter.

The Wonderful World of Plywood

Just how much do you really know about plywood? Well, on Saturday morning, Nov. 6, twenty-three members of LIWC were the guests of Mr. Norm Roberts of Roberts Plywood Co. He and two of his staff welcomed us with coffee and doughnuts. After a few introductory remarks we were escorted into the warehouse.

It is impossible to describe the overwhelming impression of row upon row of plywood reaching to a ceiling about thirty feet above you. If you think you've seen plywood at Home Depot or your local lumber yard, let me tell you they don't even scratch the surface.

Roberts Ply stocks plywood with veneers from A(Almaciga) to Z (Zebrawood) in thicknesses from 1/8" to 1-1/8" in sheets of 48" x 96", 48" x 120", including 60" x 60" sheets of Finland Birch. There are even 1/8" sheets of bending Poplar.

If you would prefer it, you can obtain Basswood Lumbercore to use in making your own veneered sheets. Roberts stocks paper-backed and phenolic-backed veneers in a wide variety of woods, including Ash, Oaks, and Cherry and ranging to tropical exotics, including Teak, Brazilian Rosewood, Lacewood and Macassar Ebony. Matching edge banding is also available. And let me tell you if you want to discuss possible uses and problems with these products, Norm Roberts and his staff are the people to talk with.

But plywood is not the only product available from this source. The array of products is mind-boggling. There is a wide selection of Melamine and MDF in various thicknesses and laminate facings. We saw wood cylinders and curved plywood sections in 1/4 rounds and 1/2 rounds. Have you ever wondered how that curved desk front with the rounded corners that your dentist's receptionist sits behind was made? Well, if you were with us Saturday morning, you now know. And ... well, I guess I could go on for awhile longer, but you begin to get the idea.

It was possibly the most interesting and informative 2 1/2 hours this old wood butcher has spent in a long time. And

then Mr. Roberts really put the icing on the cake. If you present a current membership card from LIWC, you will receive a 10% discount on your purchase. Roberts Plywood Co. is located on Rodeo Dr. in Brentwood and is open Mon. thru Fri. The best time for the small purchaser is before 3 PM when the big commercial buyers arrive to pickup.

Again, it was one GREAT morning.

Graham G. Kelly

American Woodworker Show

Three of us -- Bob Urso, Joe Pascucci and myself journeyed to Philadelphia to the woodworking show. We arrived when the doors opened at 1:00 PM, and stayed until it closed at 9:00 PM. Even with that amount of time we missed many of the free demonstrations. We did, however, take in some workshops. I attended one which dealt with working with solid wood. Joe and Bob attended one on turning. Joe won the door prize, which was a Ryobi portable lathe. All the major tool manufacturers, except for Panasonic, seemed to be represented. I picked up some good tips watching a demonstration on cutting dovetails with the Incra Jig. We all came away with bags of goodies, but two items have to be sent -- an air cleaning system to Bob and a vacuum veneering press to me. (Now I have to buy a compressor.) It was a great day.

Brian Hayward

Scroll Saw Workshop

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Leader: Jeff Berson

As previously announced, this is a hands-on workshop; therefore it is essential that those people who have scroll saws bring them. The more we have, the less time spent waiting to get on a saw. The club will provide patterns, wood, and various blades for comparisons. It should be a good day. Pre-registration is essential, contact

Howard Whitman 586-5815
Brian Hayward 549-9096

Oyster Bay Display

The club has been asked if members would like to display small items of their work at the Oyster Bay Library during the month of January. There is

no objection to advertising and/or selling your items. If interested, contact Brian Hayward, 549-9096.

LIWC Member Profiles

Charlie Felsen studied to be an Industrial Arts Teacher and always had an interest in woodworking. Approximately eight years ago he began to make toys, and he now sells them to nursery schools. Until recently Charlie primarily made toys for boys, but now he has started making toys for girls, such as furniture for Barbie dolls.

Bob Hall has been making toy wooden trucks and cars for approximately ten years. His interest in truck and car toy building stems from his involvement in the trucking and delivery business. At present Bob is working on sixteen trucks, some of which are for big boys and some are for little boys.

The Long Island Woodworkers' Club
c/o Jim Cosgrove
3570 Manchester Road
Wantagh, New York 11793-3011

First Class Mail