

The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

October 1995

Volume 7, Number 2

**Next Meeting --October 4
Smithtown Barn
7:30 P.M.**

Guitar-Maker to Speak

The October meeting of the Long Island Woodworkers will feature Tom Petry as guest speaker. Mr. Petry has been an Industrial Arts teacher on the junior high and high school level for the past twenty-two years. At present he teaches in West Babylon.

Although he has expertise in all areas of woodworking and has won a Best of Show award at an exposition for East Coast Craftsmen at Madison Square Garden, he will be speaking to the club about making classical guitars. Up to the present, Mr. Petry has completed six such guitars and is working on a seventh. He will bring two completed guitars and one that is under construction with him to the meeting.

In his presentation he will not only talk about guitar-making, but he will also emphasize tricks of the trade that will be of interest to the general woodworker.

The President's Message

Last month's meeting featured Dynamite Tools own Aly Kahn, whose talk was quite interesting and informative. Aly spoke about everything from wood species and finishing to machinery and tools. It was quite an eclectic talk, but I'm sure all those present came away with information they can use in their shops.

Remember to start getting your plans and wood ready to go for our big "Toys for Tots" program. The Marines will be there to accept the toys and to take pictures with all of us, so it's not too early to start making them. Let's see if we can beat the number of toys we've had in previous years.

We're looking for volunteers to make boxes to hold our membership forms. Jackson Lowell has printed 1000 of these, and we would like to distribute them in selected stores and lumber yards. Brian Hayward has made two beautiful boxes with his Inca jig, but we could use at least 12 more. If you need dimensions or Plexiglas for the front, call me at (516) 360-1216 or Brian Hayward at (516) 549-9096. Anyone who needs any membership

forms for prospective members, please let me know.

Remember we have a sell-and-swap column in each newsletter free to all members and a sell-and-swap at every meeting, so if you have some tools, machinery, wood or what have you related to woodworking, don't hesitate to use these outlets.

Also we would like to have a show-and-tell and a question-and-answer period before our scheduled speaker does his or her talk. So at our next meeting, please bring down any projects you would like to share with us or any questions you might have regarding woodworking.

Hope to see you all at the October meeting.

Letter from Jeff Berson

What follows is the full text of a letter addressed to the Long Island Woodworkers' Club, August 26, 1995.

Dear Fellow Woodworkers:

When the Long Island Woodworkers Club was started years ago, I had hopes of seeing the concept develop into a thriving organization made up of people devoted to the broad concept of creating objects of beauty and functionality using their talents and wood. My devotion and sacrifice to the LIWC have been amply rewarded through the growth of such an organization and the friendships and

acquaintances that I have developed over the years, and also, through the satisfaction of seeing others develop similar bonds.

When I left for Virginia last winter it was with mixed emotions. I knew it would lead to continued employment and a new career, but also, it would inevitably break or stress ties that I had grown very close to. What I found was that life's path is like a mountain road. Sometimes the road is curving with poor visibility, and sometimes it has long runs with good visibility. Sometimes the weather is clear, and sometimes, everything is obscured by a heavy mist or a storm. Courage and confidence with a big pinch of faith will mark the survivor on the "mountain road."

The LIWC is made up of survivors, and I hope that you always find the necessary courage and confidence and faith in your abilities to explore new ways to keep the Club a vibrant and stimulating organization to belong to.

Many of you know that the Club presented a Bob Howard layout square to me for my years of service to the LIWC. It is a very meaningful gift to me, and I will always remember the multitude of pleasures, and of course the one or two frustrations, that those years have meant. I am truly grateful, and I thank you for your generosity.

I still intend to remain a member of the LIWC for many more years. And, never saying "die," I want you to know that I am starting a special interest

group for scroll saw workers here in Northern Virginia. Yes, the dream of the S.I.G. lives on! I'll keep you posted on how things are going.

Best wishes,

Jeff Berson

Further Programs

Saturday, November 4th

There will be a tour of Robert's Plywood Warehouse in Deer Park. This will give the opportunity of discovering how to evaluate quality as well as some of the other aspects of plywood, man-made woods, and veneers. Those interested please contact the undersigned.

**Saturday, December 2nd or 9th
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

Scroll Saw Workshop

Now that we are in our new quarters, the Program Committee is trying to organize "hands-on" workshops. The first endeavor will be with the scroll saw. We anticipate that we can get at least six scroll saws from members. The club will provide a selection of blades so that everyone can get a feel for how each one cuts; also there will be different thicknesses and types of wood. There will be patterns so that you will be able to take home a finished product. Jeff Berson, our ex-president, will be coming in from Virginia to lead

this workshop. There will be a minimal charge to cover cost. We anticipate about \$25.00. Before final plans are made it is essential that we have some idea of how many people are interested because we want to cover cost (rent of the Barn, supplies, etc.). Because we have to reserve the Barn, it is important to have information on numbers as soon as possible. Therefore please contact either of us promptly.

Howard Whitman 586-5815

Brian Hayward 549-9096

Home Depot -- Expo Design Center

It is not really news anymore when Home Depot opens a new store, but the new Expo Design Centre at 1250 Corporate Drive in Westbury (near the site of the old Roosevelt Raceway Grandstand) is not the average Home Depot. It's not the place to get 2 x 4's, sheetrock, power tools, and fasteners.

The Expo center is a kinder, gentler version of Home Depot. Probably the best way to explain it is by saying that it's a home center your wife won't mind going to. It is the place to go to plan your next home remodeling project -- from start to finish. On display are windows and doors, beautiful bathroom fixtures, countertop materials, cabinet hardware, decorative tile, fireplace mantles, and even a few spectacular complete staircases. In addition there are many items that could beautify anyone's home, such as wallpaper, fabrics,

curtains and towels.

The store offers a number of services right on the premises, such as custom countertop fabrication, shelving unit assembly and picture framing. Woodworkers in a hurry might be interested in one area where they sell glued-up table tops, aprons, legs and hardware. They even have Queen Anne legs for sale. You haven't seen all Home Depot has to offer until you've checked this place out.

A Custom Finish

Here are the instructions given by Dana Robes, Wood Craftsman from Enfield, New Hampshire, for applying his custom finish.

1. Check for scratches, dings, swirl marks, glue, etc. and repair as needed. Sand with the grain using 220 grade sandpaper.
2. Wipe off dust.
3. Apply finish of equal parts boiled linseed oil, gum turpentine, and satin

urethane. Use a sponge brush and stir finish frequently.

4. After 10-20 minutes, use paper towels to wipe any finish that has not been absorbed. Time will vary depending on humidity, type of wood, and temperature. If finish becomes tacky, wipe immediately. Destroy paper towels immediately.

5. Let dry 24 hours.

6. Hand sand lightly with 400 grade wet/dry sandpaper in a direction with the grain. This will remove excess finish.

7. Wipe clean and apply second coat of mixture.

8. Wipe off as in step 4 above.

9. Let dry 24 hours.

10. Lightly sand second coat with 400 wet/dry sandpaper.

11. Apply a turpentine-base paste wax (such as Butcher's Wax) to seal the surface. Wax only one area at a time. Use plenty of elbow grease to obtain a stain luster.

12. Fill all nail holes and imperfections with colored wax.

The Long Island Woodworkers' Club

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