

The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

February, 1997

Volume 8 Number 5

**Next Meeting -- February 5
Smithtown Barn
7:30 P.M.**

Norm Roberts

This month's meeting will feature Norm Roberts of Roberts Plywood. What follows is a reprint of an article written by Graham Kelly in the December, 1995 edition of The Wood Rack. It gives details of a LIWC visit to the company warehouse in Brentwood.

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

President's Message

What a great talk and demonstration was given by Frank Klausz at our December meeting! Frank is a fine speaker, craftsman and showman. He had everybody's attention the whole time he spoke. I didn't see one person leave early. It was standing room only in the barn to see the master at work. I'm sure everyone came away with new information about some form of woodworking.

Our program chairman, Howard Whitman, his committee, and myself have developed a great list of speakers for the remainder of the club's year, which ends in July. Let me tell you what we have lined up.

February 5 -- Roberts Plywood

March 5 -- HVLP Systems

April 2 -- DeWalt & Home Depot

(They promise that this show and demonstration will be bigger and better than last year's.)

May 7 -- Pete Tarran and Pat Leach
-- Hand Saws

June 4 -- Members' Woodworking Show & BBQ

I hope you are as excited as I am about these programs and that you can attend all or most of them.

The video that was shot at my house in September on Stanley Planes is finally finished. I'll have tapes for sale at the February meeting for all of you who asked for them in December.

I'd like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year, and I hope that all of you get to spend more time in your shop.

-- Bill Hermanek

Secretary's Report

Our December meeting was held on Wednesday the 4th at the Brush Barn in Smithtown. The meeting was opened by Bill Hermanek, followed by the arrival of the United States Marine Corps. Joe Pascucci presented the two Marine delegation with an abundance of nicely crafted wooden toys from the membership. These represented our annual donation to the "Toys for Tots" Program. Joe Pascucci advised that our Treasury now stands at \$4125.00.

Monthly Raffle Results:

Set of Forstner Bits - Celine Blais

Leather Tool Roll - Bill Hahl

St. James Bay Square - Mike Scott

Members who donated items for the "Toys for Tots" Program received a ticket

for each item, good for a special raffle of prizes to be held at the February meeting.

Frank Klausz, our guest speaker, was introduced to everyone. He opened his presentation with "To be a better woodworker, you must do more woodworking." Frank's subject for the evening was "Frames and Drawers."

Drawers:

Frank's Tips - Use Eastern White Pine for sides, back and bottom (no plywood if you are making a reproduction piece). Use hardwood for your door fronts. Use dovetail joints for the strongest possible drawers.

Use a good sharp saw to cut dovetails; cut on the waste side; make pins first, then tails.

You can cut handmade dovetails, but you must practice, practice, practice. Use a marking gauge to set up your cuts for the drawer -- bottom grooves, etc. Make the width of your drawer backs 1/16" smaller to insure a good natural fit.

Taper your drawer bottoms. This gives a more appealing appearance and a better, tighter fit.

Use white glue. Apply with an acid brush. Remember cabinetmakers are really "Boxologists."

Face Frames:

Construction: Use "stick and cope" frames made on a shaper.

Joinery: Use two dowel pins (Drill holes before you shape.).

Use mortise and tenon on exterior

projects (doors, etc.). Use fluted or spiral dowel pins.

Remember: Have fun when you do woodworking. If it's made of wood, we can do it! Understand and use more hand tools. Be friends and share your knowledge.

Hand Tools: Frank prefers chisels with flat tops, a carver's mallet, a Stanley #4 Bench Plane (tuned and sharp), a good workbench.

Saws: use a good sharp dovetail saw, 14 TPI. Be sure to have it sharpened.

Frank demonstrated cutting dovetails, planing drawer sides and bottoms, and spoke about making his marvelous workbench (It took three guys to carry it in and out.).

A record turnout was on hand for this wonderful meeting. Just remember one thing!

"If you want to be a better woodworker, you must do more woodworking."

-- Bob Hall

Toys for Tots

Just a word of thanks to all the members who generously made and donated toys for our "Toys for Tots" Program. The Marines were pleased to receive them and said that they will all go to the needy. They said that a lot of the toys were well suited for some of the handicapped children with special needs. There was a good assortment of toys given, and all members should feel proud. However, I think with a club our

size -- 170 members -- we should have filled five tables. Each member should try to bring in at least one toy. It doesn't have to be fancy and take hours to build. Simple toys have appeal also. If you don't have an idea of what to build, there are numerous resources available, such as magazines, books (available at our library or your own library) and Club members such as Bob Urso or Bob Hall, who build toys professionally. The person you sit next to at the Club meeting might have a good idea. Now is not too soon to start for next year's program. If you didn't give this year, try to give next year. You will find it very rewarding.

Thanks.

-- Joe Pascucci

Save This Date!

On Saturday, March 22, Ian Kirby, a well-known woodworker, teacher, and author, will be giving an all day workshop. Recently, *American Woodworker* ran a series from his latest book on joinery. When Ian teaches, he is not only informative, but interesting. The content has yet to be finalized, but it will be aimed at the intermediate-advanced level. However, beginners are more than welcome.

-- The Program Committee

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



First Class Mail

Brian Hayward
9 Tracy Dr.
Huntington N.Y. 11743

names
ages 10-16. C

--- \$85.00.

--- \$235.00.

Used, but still in good shape. Includes metal
dust port --- \$300.00.
collectible or excellent user quality,
wood bottoms available. --- Reasonable.

Sale. Includes every available accessory! A lot
price \$80.00. Contact Jim Cosgrove, 781-4304.
\$3500.00. Call Steve Paulo, 796-6076. Beeper Nr

8 of Fine Woodworking series entitled Technique
Contact Roger Schroeder, 691-2095.

Order Cable dovetail template. Excellent condition
eder, 691-2095.

LE: Table Saw, Compressor, Wood Lathe, and C
ie Felsen, 499-2087.

Woodworking tools and books for sale. Planes, dr
titles, FWW, FHB, and videos. \$200.00 takes all.

Wood Shaper on stand with cutters. \$100.00

Craftsman 10" Radial Arm Saw. Star
misc. Tools, molding and dad
Asking \$325.00. Call Dennis, ever