

# The Wood Rack

Newsletter of the Long Island Woodworkers' Club

January, 1998

Volume 9 Number 5

## Next Meeting - Wed., Jan 7 Secretary's Report

Brush Barn, 7:30 PM

Scroll Saw Demonstrations  
by the DeWALT Company

### President's Message

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays! If you received a new tool or accessory, maybe you could tell us about it. As the new year rapidly approaches, the Program Committee is meeting to plan an exciting year of topics. All members are encouraged to help with input on these topics. Please see a Program Committee member with your thoughts.

While I'm on the subject, I would like to thank Jim Clancy, Steve Costello, and Frank Allaire for taking charge of the TOYS for TOTS Program. The number of toys collected was 235, and the quality of the toys was most impressive. Thanks guys! A special thank you to Bill Hermanek for serving the past two years as President and to Howard Whitman as Vice President and Head of the Program Committee. They both put a lot of time and effort into the club behind the scenes. Their dedication has helped the Woodworkers Club grow into what it is today.

-- Charlie Felsen

On Wednesday, December 3, 1997, our Christmas-Holiday Get-together and meeting was held at the Brush Barn in Smithtown. Over 100 members were on hand for this festive occasion.

The meeting was opened at 8 PM by Bill Hermanek, who gave an outline of the evening's scheduled events. The meeting was then turned over to Joe Pascucci. Joe advised that we have \$3343.00 in the treasury and our membership stands at 234. 110 members have already mailed in their 1998 dues. If you haven't done so, please MAIL in your dues to Joe Pascucci. If for some reason you cannot MAIL in your dues, please give them to Joe in an envelope at the next meeting. We would like to have all dues in by the January 7 meeting.

The TOYS for TOTS Program was a smashing success due to the generous participation of everyone. 235 toys were made. We have 234 members. Just think if everyone made something, and some two or three. WOW!

The USMC, represented by Sgt. McBride and his assistant, presented the club with a nice certificate in appreciation of our efforts. Sgt. McBride stated that the TOYS for TOTS Program has been in existence for 49 years and has given away over 220 million toys, currently donating

seven million annually.

A double raffle was held. The regular raffle produced four winners. The special raffle, where one chance was given for each toy submitted, produced eighteen winners. Special thanks to Jim Clancy and his committee, Frank Allaire and Steve Costello.

Election of officers was held. The following candidates were presented by the election committee and approved by the membership:

**President:** Charlie Felsen

**Vice President:** Bob Urso

**Treasurer:** Joe Pascucci

**Secretary:** Bob Hall

**Trustee:** Brian Hayward

**Trustee:** Howard Whitman

Upcoming events;

January 7 -- LIWC Meeting at the Brush Barn, Smithtown -- Scroll Saw Demonstrations, presented by the DeWalt Company.

January 9, 10, 11 - The North Jersey Woodworking Show, Somerset, New Jersey.

February 11 - LIATC -- Tool Auction at the Brush Barn, Smithtown. You must be a member to participate. You may join now! Contact Bill Hermanek (360-1216) or Bob Hall (265-5345).

Remember to bring something in for SHOW and TELL, something you made with that new tool Santa brought. Have fun, make lots of sawdust, and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

-- Bob Hall

## Reviews of Ian Kirby's Workshop #3, December 13

Before I was married I would eat at restaurants where the food was good and substantial. I felt fulfilled and thought the food to be all right. After marriage my wife introduced me to restaurants that served prime cuts of meat in fine sauces and spices. I was introduced to gourmet food. In the last three workshops with Ian I've experienced gourmet woodworking. Ian, with his profound knowledge of all aspects of woodworking, was the "prime cut." His interesting, entertaining, and witty presentations were the sauces and spices.

Ian went into depth describing the theoretical and constructional aspects of the mortise and tenon joint and the dovetail. In one very interesting exercise he had us draw a dovetail joint on a piece of paper in order to understand the layout and cutting. Later many of us attempted to cut a simple kerf with a backsaw. Somehow the saw worked fine for Ian but not for us. It would keep jamming. No wonder we always turn to power tools (Hurry up and develop your hands-on classes, Ian!). Ian made three different types of dovetails, each of which brought spontaneous applause. We covered more than dovetails. Finishing and furniture design were also discussed. In addition, we were shown that even if you make a mortise and tenon with precision, everything can go out of square in clamping the frame. It was an exhilarating day. It was the creme de la creme of woodworking.

-- Brian Hayward

Ian Kirby's third session was about how to approach drawer construction and the dovetail joint and its four variations. He also gave a brief talk on his only method of finishing furniture. Mr. Kirby's education in furniture design, cabinetmaking, chair-making and wood science, his awards and his many published articles on woodworking gave us the benefits of historical information associated with furniture design and construction, and the working of wood with hand tools. Of course, Mr. Kirby's wit and British humor made the day and his presentation all the more worthwhile.

When he explains a process such as sharpening or the use of a chisel, he also goes into the use and positioning of the body and its balance. He also points out that we shouldn't let our tape measure or ruler dictate a dimension; rather he uses a sharp knife wherever possible, using the stile, rail or shoulder to mark its location. He stresses the use of the eyes, fingers, winding sticks and the need to follow a tried and true process of assembly and finishing when preparing a board or a carcass.

His finishing is limited to shellac and beeswax, and he uses only hardwoods for his furniture. That's it. He admits to being opinionated, but it's understandable once you've seen him at work. At the beginning of the session, he mentioned that in a few months he will have in place a studio where he will hold hands-on workshops for groups of 20 students. The course will provide students with tools and wood for the project undertaken. The tools are loaners; the project can be taken home.

Graham Kelly has done a magnificent

job of capturing the crucial words of Ian Kirby's presentations and has also made clear and concise drawings illustrating the construction of the joint or process being demonstrated at the time. I think I speak for all the members who attended when I say, "Thank you, Graham! Great job, and keep it up."

-- Gabe Jaen

## **Fourth Ian Kirby Workshop January 10**

Embrace these manufactured sheet materials. They have a lot to offer you! This session will focus on the manufacture and the characteristics of:

- Plywood
- Particle Board
- Medium Density Fibre Board
- Other Manufactured Sheet Material (MSM)

**Designing furniture with MSM:** Solid wood is hygroscopic -- it shrinks and expands. Manufactured sheet material is, for all intents and purposes, dimensionally stable. The rules which govern solid wood design don't apply with these materials. You can do things with these which are "no-no's" with solid wood.

**Surface Covers:** Sliced and Sawn Veneers

**Sliced Veneers:** Unlike solid wood, MSM ain't pretty. You have to give it a surface. Veneer is an option. You can use a slice of material which you couldn't afford, find or use in the solid like burl walnut or crotch mahogany.

Doors open for you on exotic woods and prime native woods.

**Sawn Veneer:** You can saw your own veneer. A lump of pretty wood that you have stored for years suddenly becomes six of seven times its face area -- a table top, a set of door panels.

**How to Prepare Veneers to be Ready to Apply**

**How to Get the Veneer on the Panel**

**Lippings for Veneered Panels**

**Joints and Joining MSM**

**Making a Torsion Box:** What it is -- What you can do with it

**Leather as a Surface Material**

## **The Market Place**

FOR SALE: Router Table. 24" x 32" laminated mdf board. Fence is 34" extruded aluminum. Stand made of hardwood legs. 31" high. Table insert included. Great condition. \$120.00.

*Fine Homebuilding* 1-50, plus four slipcases, great condition. \$150.00. *American Woodworker* 26-63, also great condition. \$120.00.

Ten slipcases for *Fine Woodworking* magazine. Will hold 100 issues. Excellent condition. \$50.00. Call Roger Schroeder, 691-2095.

FOR SALE: Black and Decker Radial Arm Saw -- 10" blade. Adjustable for crosscut, rip, and angle cuts. Table and stand included. \$150.00. Call Al Schryver, 543-3327.

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

**First Class Mail**

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