

THE Wood Rack



MAY 2001

www.liwoodworkers.org

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NEXT MEETING: Wed., May 2, 7 p.m., Brush Barn, Smithtown

NEXT MEETING: Veneering Basics with Mario Rodriguez of Constantine's.

The speaker for the May 2nd meeting will be Mario Rodriguez, and his topic will be veneer basics. Mario will show the veneer project that will be constructed at the upcoming seminar and demonstrate and explain the tools and techniques used in this project and general veneer techniques. Mario is an excellent teacher, and we are happy to have him host a monthly meeting again. Rich Kastan of Dynamite Tool will also give a short talk about his plans and involvement during the business part of our meeting. We expect this to be a busy meeting, so try to keep show and tell items to a minimum; in fact bring them to the show.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Gabe Jaen

Well, after last month's dilemma with my shop and how to rearrange it, I went out and bought that gadget that you can put your equipment on and have a rolling table saw or whatever. To make matters worse, two good friends of mine went and bought for me on my birthday another mobile base, so I now have more equipment on wheels. Well, now I'm worse off. I gained more space, but I was so used to my old shop that I couldn't get started working wood. Now I have all these things on wheels, and all I do is roll table saws, band-saws, drill press, router table and surface planes all over the B----y place.

Why don't they have mobile bases for living room furniture? My wife has me move furniture around with the seasons. She must be related to Jim R., the guy who loves to roll things around. By the way, one of those nice guys that gave me the "wheels" has his workbench on wheels, did you ever! Anyway, I must confess, it makes my indecision less physical, but I won't, will not, mobilize my workbench. Truth be known, as a young
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SECRETARY'S REPORT



Owen Brady
& Steve Costello

Gabe Jaen got the April 4, 2001 meeting started promptly at 7 p.m. and informed all present that there was a full program, so he didn't want to do too much grandstanding. Consensus was that this made for a nice change.

The comment was made that the last monthly newsletter was the best ever. Gabe was delighted with the participation of members in this discussion and mentioned that Jim Ruppel was the guy from the "Op-Ed" letter with his shop on wheels. Gabe asked more members to become active participants in the newsletter and to send in anything that would be of interest to woodworkers. Items can include (but not be limited to) new and old products, comments on machinery, tools or materials, helpful hints or just where to buy or get the best buys. Written material can be as short as a one-liner or as long as an essay. **JUST SEND THEM IN** (to Jim Cosgrove, Woodrack Editor, 3570 Manchester Road, Wantagh, NY 11793 or (preferably) e-mail him at ckcos@hotmail.com).

The show at Saratoga Springs was enjoyed by all 32 members who attended. Gabe was so involved with the
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President's Message continued

Continued from page 1

design engineer I had to layout two industrial plants we were moving into. We didn't have rolling benches and machinery. Maybe that's why I'm so anal about my shop.

There are several books on the subject of shop layout, and they're fine as a guide, but they never account for overhead pipes, boiler locations, existing wiring, concrete floors that are not level, or basement window locations. So you layout your shop to suit your particular woodworking interests. If you turn or scroll, you have one set of problems. If you insist on making armoires, well that's a different set of problems. But if you boil it all down, if all I have available is a 6-foot x 6-foot space for my woodworking, I'll make it work. It's what working wood means to me. I hope it stirs in you the same feelings – the frustration, the anxious waiting for the finish to dry, the pleasure of seeing it finished and the admiring glances from family and friends and the gratitude of the person you give it to. Wow, well let me go down and rearrange my shop.



Demonstrators Needed

Elaine Deasley is on the Expo Committee for the Club Member Demonstration and the Membership Table. She is looking for names of members who do turning, scrolling, carving, router techniques, band-sawing, veneering, etc. Elaine also needs those of us who do painting on wood. Her objective is to get as many demonstrators as possible, thereby enabling each demonstrator to spend less time at the bench, giving him or her a chance to float around and get into some of the seminars. It's all part of helping the Club and at the same time enjoying the benefits of the Club. All those interested can catch Elaine or her daughter Beth at the meeting or call her at 631-369-4295. Thanks for your help.

– Gabe Jaen

Secretary's Report continued

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exhibits, demonstrations and seminars that he never made it to the vendors. He is still in his “pine” stage, so he was not interested in any hardwood. It should be mentioned that Charlie Morehouse picked up a fine piece of curly maple 12/4 x 7” x 8’ which he plans to use for making Cabriole legs. Good find, Charlie!! Bill Hermanack was there with some items to sell, and it is always fine to see our past president again.

Show and Tell was interesting. Frank Allaire, our resident toy maker, showed a pair of wooden soldiers that he will be exhibiting during our Expo 2001. Charley James and Bob Urso exhibited hand-made wooden planes that they made as part of a course they are taking that is being given by Mario Rodriguez at F.I.T. Charlie Morehouse brought in his Queen Ann lowboy desk with cabriole legs that delighted everyone. It was made from curly maple and finished beautifully with four coats of shellac with a hand-rubbed finish.

The club received a small check from Larry Mulderig, the Crystalac representative, as a commission for products sold to LIWC members.

Gabe commented on the poor member response to Expo 2001. He asked the members to fill out the volunteer response form and submit it whether or not they plan to participate. Bob Urso and Expo 2001 committee heads all made urgent requests for volunteers. Brian Monks, Charlie James, Elaine Deasley, Jim Clancy, Owen Brady and Steve Costello all asked for assistance.

Final notices were sent out for membership dues. If there is a special need, let Gabe know. Approximately 66 members have not paid their dues. This is almost 25 percent of our total membership.

In the raffle, Kenny LoFink won a pack of assorted woods, Mike Daum, noise protectors and Ed Leitgeb, epoxy. Elaine Deasley donated a zero clearance tablesaw insert which will go into the tool garage sale at Expo 2001.



NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

By Bob Urso

UPCOMING EVENTS.

May 12th. Mario Rodriguez Seminar. The topic will be a hands-on workshop with all participants building a fan-shaped veneer inlay. The piece will be constructed with over 20 individual pieces of veneer. You will learn selection, layout, cutting, shading and assembly. This class is limited to 25 and is almost full. Please contact Joe Pascucci to enroll and to receive a list of tools needed. (We can share most items, so it is not necessary to make extensive tool purchases.) Cost will be \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members.

June 2&3. Sixth Annual Wood Show and Members Exhibition
This will probably be the last newsletter before the show, so I will try to update as much as possible. I will also list the show committee members again. Please contact the appropriate members for information or to offer assistance.

Vendors

The commercial vendor area is about two-thirds full with a good variety of exhibitors, including many new and returning exhibitors. We expect a full exhibit hall on show day. Check our web-site often for updates. Jet power tools will be sponsoring our Toy Workshop with new power tools, which will be available for sale at the end of the show. Club members will get first picks, and prices will be dis-

counted. Jim Clancy is in charge of the Toy Workshop, and Bob Urso is in charge of Commercial Vendors.

Raffle Prizes

We are negotiating with DeWalt, and right now it looks as though they will help with our raffle prizes again. In addition, we have received door prizes from Fox Chapel Publishing, Woodline Arizona and Freedom Power Tools.

Sawmill Demo

Like last year, there will be an operating sawmill at our front entrance.

Woodshop Gallery

We will again have an area for members to sell their woodworks in the Woodshop Gallery. Our club receives 10 percent of sales, and all types of woodwork will be accepted, including furniture, chairs, toys, etc. If items are too large to transport, bring a portfolio and take commissions. Rich Weil is in charge of the Woodshop Gallery.

Tool Garage Sale

Just as in the Gallery, members will be able to sell surplus tools and equipment at the Tool Garage Sale area. Commission will be the same 10 percent, and if items are too large, bring a photo instead. Steve Costello is in charge.

Members' Exhibition

The Members' Exhibition will be expanded this year, and Charlie

James and Brian Monks are in charge of this area as well as members' volunteer assignments. Items in the exhibition area are eligible for awards in different prize categories, or they may be exhibited without being judged – your choice. Categories will be announced shortly. If you would like to organize the competition, contact a committee member.

Membership, Demonstrations, Programs, Printing and Advertising

Elaine Deazley is chairing the LIWC membership tables and demonstration areas. Gabe Jaen, Rich Weil and Leo Meilak are working on program layout and printing. Owen Brady is in charge of all advertising and publicity. Owen is also working with Ed Schneff on road signs and banners.

Seminars

Our seminars this year will include Mario Rodriguez, Strother Purdy, Ian Kirby, Charlie Morehouse the L.I. Woodturners and possibly a carving demonstration. Joe Pascucci is in charge. Joe is also the show treasurer and security head.

June 6th. Annual Barbecue and Awards Presentation meeting. July 11th and Aug. 1st. To be announced. Note date change of July meeting. We need a speaker for one of the summer months, and the other will be a round-robin type meeting. If you would be interested in either please contact Bob Urso.

Offcuts and Endgrain from the LIWC President

Interest Survey

Mike Daum has created an easy-to-fill-out interest inventory form. No, we are not trying to steal your identity; we only want to identify your woodworking interests so we can provide interesting and educational meetings and seminars for members. The information collected from this form can be sorted eight ways from Sunday and tell us that we've been giving you seminars or meeting on dovetails when only three members in the club even care about them. We may find that there is a small cluster of members who have a very narrow interest area. If that's the case, we can recommend that you form a small group so that you can meet at the shop of one of the members and really share information and technique. Do yourself and your elected officers a favor and fill out the form, and if you don't know Mike Daum, he's the guy with hair that's longer than mine was. He's younger and a lot better looking. If you still can't find him, give the form to me. Thank you.

More Kudos for Club's Bench

Last month I failed to comment enough on the workbench that John Seiple, Rich Weil and Graham Kelly made. At our last meeting several people came to me and mentioned how well thought-out and well constructed the bench was. Some even asked me if the plans were available. Well, I checked with Rich, and he said that perhaps a generic drawing could be made available. The original workbench was made to be as light as possible, portable, and break down for storage, because we could not know who was going to use it for a presentation and how they would use it. If we do get the plans we may even put it up on the website and charge a nominal fee to nonmembers. It is a great-looking bench, and beautifully made. Thanks again.

New Additions to the Library

I don't know if I should thank those of you who were tardy returning books and videos to our library, but recently we collected \$100 in late payments. Leo Meilak, one of our librarians, used the money to buy the following books and videos for the club: Books – “Furniture Restoration”, by

Kevin Jan Bonner, and “Fine Woodworking in a Small Workshop”. Videos – “Veneering on Solid Wood” by Tage Frid, “Getting Started With Veneer” by Frank Pollaro and “Making Picture Frames” by Stuart Altshuler.

Local Suppliers Information

Here's some news about some of our local suppliers. **Roberts Plywood** has moved to their new facility. They are at 45 North Industry Court, Deer Park, NY 11729. Telephone # 631-586-7700, FAX #631-586-7009. Another point of information: if you find yourself in a bind and suddenly need hardware like handles, hinges and things for your project you might want to try **Long Island Laminates, Inc.**, 35 Engineers Road, Hauppauge. Telephone 631-234-6969. They are off of Old Willets Path, south of Veterans Memorial Highway. Recommended by Brian Monks.

Expo Help Needed

We have only this one newsletter to get the message out to you that we need your support in making the Show 2001 a success. Most of the long-term hard work is already being done by a very dedicated bunch of members. By contrast, the two-day effort during the Show 2001 is more fun than work. You get a chance to see other members' work, meet vendors, attend seminars and socialize with your peers. You may even see your neighbors there, or get a chance to have a one-on-one conversation with the vendors and seminar presenters. The vendors move their own stuff in. We only have to tell them where their booth is, or where they can get a beer because they have been on the road for a long time. The easy part is walking around and answering a question or two from the people attending the show.

The Long Island Carvers will be there along with the Long Island Turners, and you can get an awful lot of useful tips from these guys even though you only turn once in a while. How bad can it be? The guys you're going to help are the same guys that don't hesitate to answer your questions about a problem you may have. If they keep doing this alone, they may FUGEDABOWDIT.

– Gabe Jaen

Minnesota Woodworkers Guild Parallels LIWC

I occasionally log-on to other woodworking clubs on the Internet to see what they are doing and to get ideas on how we can improve our club. Today I logged on to the Minnesota Woodworkers Guild and started to read their newsletter because I was so impressed with its appearance. It looked and read very professional.

The president's message speaks about receiving an e-mail from Woodshop News. They wanted to conduct an interview with one of the members. He, of course, gladly agreed to give one.

He goes on to write about the present economic situation as depicted by the media. He sees all kinds of people buying and the gridlock they caused, and he yearns for the "solitude and tranquility" of his shop, to the point where he reflects on the way the sun's ray hit his Stanley tape measure. I know the feeling, since I have a basement shop with two little windows.

He congratulates the members who had their work featured in the Woodshop News. Then in his closing statement, he calls for volunteers to help in the forthcoming Northern Woods Exhibition. Does that sound familiar?

There is a small clip which is titled "How many woodworkers does it take to move a place at the Northern Woods Exhibition?" It goes on to say, "Not enough," and then pleads for volunteers to help with the show.

There is an article in the Letters to the Editor regarding the devotion of a member to his craft even though his monetary rewards are not as profitable as other vocations.

The next two pages are about the library; they list the videos and books. After that is the "Guild Member Spotlight" which is, in effect, what our

member profile articles were like. The next two pages are about how to sharpen and use a scraper. They are very well written and photographed. The next three pages are about a survey they had their members fill out. The tragedy is that 70 members responded, which represents 12 percent of the membership.

You don't have to be a math genius to figure out that it's a big club. They were able to determine what the membership felt were the best and worst meeting programs, how they could do better, and that they are a diverse and a knowledgeable organization. Sixty-two percent were self taught, and only 16 percent were professionals. The newsletter ends with a schedule of the forthcoming meetings and lists the programs, which are Automated Custom

Woodworking, The Art of Making Windsor Chairs, and Your Furniture in 2001. By the way, these members have to travel to three different locations to attend the meetings.

Incidentally, I wrote this article after I had submitted my articles to our editor for publication, but because the newsletter's content was so similar to ours, I felt it needed the membership's attention. I think I'll send the Minnesota Guild a copy of our newsletter to show them we have similar problems.

In closing, do me a favor, fill out those survey forms.

— Gabe Jaen

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***Visit the website of the Minnesota Woodworker's Guild at:
<http://www.minnesotawoodworkersguild.com>.***

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last month's Woodrack introduced the concept of including a Letters to the Editor column as a monthly feature of the Long Island Woodworker's Club newsletter.

As we noted last month, only a few voices seem to dictate the tone and content of The Woodrack. A vibrant and useful newsletter, and club, needs more participation. Our club will stagnate and become stale if the same old voices go unquestioned, unanswered and un-commented upon.

Letters to the Editor do not have to be long diatribes about a

topic -- that's an article (which we could also use by the way). The average Letter to the Editor would probably be only two or three sentences, but it gives the club leadership and idea of what you like or don't like about the club. For example:

Dear Editor:

I just wanted you to know how much I enjoyed last month's speaker. John White of Fine Woodworking was really interesting and gave me some great ideas. I think I'll be submitting an article idea to Fine Woodworking later today.

John Smith, Bellport, NY

This column could also be a place to share quick tips. For me, some of the most interesting parts of magazines like "Fine Woodworking" are the Letters to the Editor and the Tips sections.

Send your comments, ideas, thoughts and tips to **Jim Cosgrove, Woodrack Editor, 3570 Manchester Road, Wantagh, NY 11793** or (preferably) e-mail him at **ckcos@hotmail.com**.

Be sure to include your name and a phone number or e-mail address where you can be reached if he has any questions.



1835 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, NY 11746
First Class Mail