



BENCH TALK

The Monthly Newsletter of the Northeastern Wisconsin Woodworkers Guild

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NO REGULAR GUILD MEETING THIS MONTH SEE YOU AT THE SPRING SHOW

SPRING SHOW UPDATE

by Jane Alesch

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ ALL THIS STUFF. I'D HATE TO SPEND ALL THIS TIME WRITING IT FOR NOTHING!

The Guild's 22nd Annual Spring Show will be held at Washington Commons in Downtown Green Bay Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14. Set up is Friday, March 12.

CATALOGS AND MAGAZINES RECYCLE. Bring your old catalogs and magazines to the show. We will set up a "HELP YOURSELF" table.

WOW! I've said this before, but you can safely tell your friends to come on down to the best show ever. The work of at least 41 members will be on display. I think I may have shuffled a couple of you into the wrong pile of papers, so if your name does not appear below and you are bringing something to the show, call me at 468-0132 or e-mail me at dalesch@new.rr.com. Raffle prize, no additional display, Everson, Foley, Allen, Schoemaker and Hansen. Displaying this year Nguyen, Carlson x3, (Bruce, Tom and Don), Carroll, Charlier, Evans, Radtke, Lockhart and Bergsbaken. Demonstration plus we have Snyder, DeLain, Martens, Kornely, Gesicki, Brien, Nowak, Kozicki, Wohlend, Fruzen, Dauplaise, Anderson, Surowiec, Decker, Hemminger, Pagel, Valenta, Krajnik, Ferrier, Huempfer, Juengst, Haen, Enderby and Martin. Oops, Dan and me.

It is not too late to get up the courage to bring down something you've made. The first five minutes are the only hard ones! One item is all I ask (to start with anyway.) No item is too small or ugly or too big a mistake to learn from.

I bet you are thinking this is way too much stuff to get in one store. Well, you're right. We are going to use **THREE OF THEM!**

RAFFLE. Those of you who have turned your prize in can see it (them) along with the tools and bike in the window of our Hallmark store. Assuming you have some idea by now what your surprise prize will be, please give me some details (item name, wood type, finish, anything else significant)

so I can make out the chart, the signs, and the raffle slips. I need this same info from those who named their item, i.e., bowl, but gave no specifics. 468-0132 or djalesch@new.rr.com. Please, Please, Please. I really would like to get some sleep Friday and Saturday nights.

Don't forget to bring in your ticket money and stubs. It's the only way to win. Also, please bring in any unused tickets. We seem to be running out so I may have someone sit and stamp numbers on Friday (feel free to volunteer). I just printed 500 more books and with any luck that may not be enough. Thank you to all who have mailed in your stuff already. I haven't counted, but it is a beautiful pile.

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE CHECK BEFORE LEAVING ON SUNDAY TO SEE IF SOMEONE IN YOUR AREA WON A PRIZE. I ESPECIALLY NEED HELP THIS YEAR BECAUSE I HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH ON MONDAY. GRANDCHILDREN TIME!

UNLOADING ON FRIDAY. The tables will be delivered late in the morning and I will have the gates open for 1:00. If anyone needs to be there earlier, let me know. I would like to be all set up and out of there by 8:00.

We checked out the system when we brought in the raffle prizes and it worked well. We will have carts available at the Washington Street Entrance. That's between Younkers and the mall. After you unload your car, we'll have you move it to a lot to make room for the next vehicle. Some members who are not showing should be there to help you, and stick around to help each other. There is a back entrance and you can use any lot entrance, but this is by far the closest . . . and it looks like the weather will clear up for us on Friday.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

SIGN IN . There will be a sign- in book at the raffle ticket counter. Please sign in each day that you are at the mall. There will be a drawing of all the names in the book at the April meeting for at least one gift certificate. It is your responsibility to get your name in the book. I didn't prelist the names of all the non-displaying volunteers because there are always more than I expect. I love it. Fred Juengst will be at the show both days if your dues are due.

LIBRARY. It is not always easy to make a Friday Night meeting, especially in winter, so those of you who have books that are more than two months overdue, and unfortunately there are many of you, you may return them to the mall. Our librarian, Bob Fruzen, must be out of town until late Sunday, but his son, Brandon, will be demonstrating Intarsia for him along with Larry Wohlend. They would love to have you get your account up to date by collecting those books at the show. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE AND THANK YOU.

DEMONSTRATORS. With so many demonstrators requiring power, it would be a good idea for some of you to bring heavy duty extension cords with your name on them.

MYSTERY WOOD. Tom Charlier is an international wood sample collector and is bringing a display of 200 samples. Bring your mystery piece of wood with you and I'm sure you will get a lot of help trying to match it up.

WEAR YOUR NAME TAG AT THE SHOW, WHETHER YOU ARE WORKING OR NOT.

About the spouses and kids . . . PJ Collectibles is having an awesome “leaving the mall” sale. We are unhappy that they are leaving, but the sales are too good to pass up. Think Christmas!

New to the mall, and in the space we had last year, is Wild Air. This inflatable playground is divided into kids under 46" and kids over 36." The fee is based on size and time.

We'll be near Annie's Pretzels, but with a small walk (or train ride) to Center Court, you will find shiny new bathrooms (there will be the other kind in one of our stores) and Subway, Grandma Gerties, Chinese Food, ice cream and very new, Cheesecake Heaven. The food tastes great and the atmosphere is wonderful.

HELP-SHORT NOTICE-ALERT

Does anyone have, or can anyone create, sandwich boards (2 sided easels) that can be used OUTSIDE the mall (THAT means they can withstand wind and rain.) Equally important, does anyone have the facility to print and or laminate a sign big enough to read from the street, say 11 x 17 or larger?. I'll help with the copy.

Dan always gets a little apprehensive before the show. “What if we set all this up and nobody comes?” he thinks, but he never says it out loud. Well, they always do come and they come in big numbers, but, just to ease Dan's apprehension, go out of your way this week to invite people down to the Commons for the big show. Be sure you come. And, if you haven't sold your raffle tickets, do your best to sell them before the drawing.

Thanks in advance for a fabulous weekend. I'm really looking forward to hanging out for a whole weekend with all you talented, sharing people. Any questions, ring the ding-a-ling.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS! COME, HAVE FUN, AND LEARN SOMETHING.

JANUARY MEETING REVIEW

by Dan Alesch

We were particularly pleased, on a dark and snowy night, to have Pat Relich speak to us about getting the best from our table saws and about choosing the right blade for the job. Pat works at Woodworkers Depot, so you will see him there when you're there shopping. We're grateful to Merl for giving Pat the night off so he could speak to us. It turns out that the Milwaukee Wood Show was that weekend and Pat was badly needed by the Depot, since both places had to be covered. You all owe one to Merl for that, because, if Pat had to be in Milwaukee, the program

might have been me showing you some of my old woodworking scars.

Speaking of being grateful to Merl and the Depot, he worked above and beyond the call of duty with his DeWalt and Makita dealers to get us the deal of a lifetime on the 6-pac and the scroll saw. Thanks, again, Merl, for all your help.

It's a testimony to the interest in the subject Pat spoke on that, despite the seriously inclement weather, we had more than half the normal attendance. No one from the North(to the best of my knowledge) and only a few from the Lakeshore and Valley were able to slog through the weather.

Pat began with some suggestions about how to give your table saw a tune-up. His logic was simple: if your saw isn't square and the mechanisms aren't clean, you won't get top performance from a blade, no matter how good it is. He suggested cleaning up the mechanisms under your saw cabinet with a vacuum and an air hose. He also suggested that it reduces friction on your saw table if you use paste wax or one of the specialty items available for cleaning and protecting the table. Next, Pat focused on aligning the saw blade to your miter slot. If the blade is not square, you can make adjustments on the trunion. Use a steel straight edge or a dial indicator to ensure you have the blade as close to parallel as you can with the miter slot.

Once that is done, make sure both pulleys under the table are aligned and that the belt is in good condition. Some first class upgrades to both the pulleys and the belts are on the market and they don't cost a lot for the enhanced performance they give. The 90 degree stops on most table saws accumulate dirt and sawdust, making it difficult to get accurate 90 degree cuts. Use a good machinist's square to check for accuracy. Relatively simple adjustments can be made to the stops to ensure they are at 90 degrees.

Finally, make sure the rip fence is aligned with the miter. That makes for straight cuts and no binding of the saw blade in your stock. Some people tail the rip fence out just a hair on the far end to prevent binding. Others prefer to use a splitter just aft of the saw blade.

When your saw is tuned, it is time to focus on the blade. Saw blade teeth are typically configured to one of four common designs: ATB (Alternate top bevel), ATB with Raker, Triple Chip, and Flat Top. The ATB blade has each alternate blade beveled opposite the one before it. Those blades are typically used for general purpose cutting and,

particularly, for cross cutting. When the blade has four alternately beveled teeth followed by a raker (a tooth cut flat to clean out the bottom of the cut, the blade rips and crosscuts about equally well. These are often known as combination blades. The triple chip blade has one tooth with a bevel on each side followed by a raker tooth. The bevels are at 45 degrees. The raker is a chip cleanout tooth. Blades like this are specialty blades used for Melamine, plastics, and other materials subject to chipping. Finally, for ripping, the blade consists of flat top teeth. They run smoothly with the grain.

Teeth have something called "hook." The hook angle is the angle at which the tooth intersects the rear upward edge of the gullet in front of the tooth. A blade with, for example, a positive hook of 20 degrees, commonly found on ripping blades, is said to be an aggressive blade. That is, the hook really pulls the wood toward the blade. Standard hook angles range from 5 to 15 degrees positive. They are less aggressive blades, but still pull toward the wood once they engage it. Negative hook angles are used for blades when one does not want an aggressive blade. A negative hook angle of 5 degrees is often used to prevent "self-feeding of stock into the blade and to give the operator greater control of the rate of feed into the blade.

How much should you spend for a blade? That, of course, depends on how much you have to spend and how much you can learn about the qualities of blades made by various manufacturers. It is not necessary to spend \$100 or more to get a really good blade for your table saw. One can get quality blades for a lot less. If you aren't an expert, it makes real good sense to shop at a place that carries good blades and where the staff knows which ones will do what under various conditions. I always get nervous when the person at the big discount house says, "Oh, is that what those are used for?"

MEMBERSHIP STATUS REPORT

By Fred Juengst

For those with membership renewals due in March '04, your Bench Talk address label will be highlighted in PINK. Please pay your dues as soon as possible.

Four membership renewals that were due in February '04 are now one month overdue: As a reminder for Ray Hansen, John Nowak, Sami Lee Phillips and Bob Rocque, please pay your dues today.

Membership renewals due in January '04 are now overdue by two months. This is the next to last newsletter for Bob and Diane Froehlich, Ebert Mitchell, and Rory Reinhold. Don't let your membership expire. Please pay today.

Members failing to renew their membership and are overdue by at least 3 months received a postcard attached to this copy of Bench Talk. This is your last Bench Talk unless you pay your dues promptly. If you don't wish to continue your membership, please print your name on the card as shown and drop the postcard in the mail. The postcard simply confirms your intent. Please keep your nametag in the event you rejoin later.

To continue your membership, slip the postcard and dues payment in an envelope and mail it. Use the same address as is on the postcard. As long as you don't mark the card in anyway, we will be able to reuse the postcard.. To pay your of dues, send your check to Fred Juengst, 846 Cornelius Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. If you have any questions about your membership, please call Fred at 920-469-1919 or e-mail at mdjuengst@aol.com.

THE OLD CARVER'S CORNER

by the Old Carver

The carvers continue to meet periodically at Dan and Jane's Studio A. The dates

for upcoming sessions are Tuesday, March 9; Tuesday, March 23, Tuesday, March 30, and Wednesday, April 6. Take a moment to mark your calendar now.


The carvers meet at 7 P.M. and continue until someone has to go home. Bring a project, some sharp tools, and interesting conversation. Call 920-468-0132 and ask for Dan or Jane if you're not a regular.


THE BOARD WILL MEET SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE

The time and location of the March Board meeting will be set at the Spring Show. If you aren't able to be at the show, call a Board member to find out when and where.

CHIPS AND DIPS

by Dan Alesch

 **Birch Logs.** Member Kevin Doherty called to say his father, Lee, has three freshly cut 14 foot birch logs about 14 inches in diameter. If you can make use of all or part of this harvest call Lee at 336-1767.

 I didn't get cut this month. Apart from that, not much else comes to mind. I may be simply over-whelmed. And here I am with about a fourth of a column left.



The Show: Be there or be square.