



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



September 2010



President's Gouge

We had a very good turnout at our last meeting at Wayne Porter's shop regarding pyrography (woodburning). A special thanks to Wayne and Maggie for hosting this meeting, and especially to Maggie for the homemade cookies! Several members brought their wood burners with capabilities ranging from the basic Boy Scout burner to multi-nib burners. We had very good discussions of the different



types of burners and their applications. It is clear that my Boy Scout burner will burn wood,

however, if I want to do more than put my name on my work, I will be looking at one of the other types of burners. I now have something else to add to my Christmas list. For those who wanted to try them, there were several options, and Wayne supplied the wood. It is apparent that several of our members have developed techniques and have applied them to their turnings with great results.



Dave Rich has been very busy contacting possible presenters for future meetings. They will require a special fee to be paid by club members for their presentations. Non-club members will be charged a higher fee for attending. Dave has been able to schedule Soren Berger for October 9th, and Bob Drotos for November 13th for a program on finishing. Check out Soren Berger on the web and you will be impressed with what he does. Soren indicated that he would be willing to stay on an extra day and provide a 1-day hands-on session. Anyone interested should contact me or Dave Rich. The 1-day session will cost \$500.00, and this cost will be split between the individuals who participate.

During the meeting we discussed the possibility of participating with the Nevada Woodchucks in preparing a display for the Nevada State Museum. We all thought it was a good idea and a committee was formed to work with the Woodchucks. The committee is made up of Dave Mills, Paul Cote, and Mel Swingrover. Several other options were discussed regarding the display of CVW member's work. One of these is a display with the Arts Council in Minden. We will be looking at what we would need to do to put a display together.

During the meeting, we discussed club member's participation in providing articles for the newsletter. Bill Draper does an exceptional job putting together the newsletter. However, we need to provide him with original material. Your article does not need to be lengthy. It can be as simple as a tip that works well for you that other members could benefit from, a safety tip that you feel is important, or a more comprehensive article regarding some aspect of woodturning. If you are apprehensive, do not be. Bill does an excellent job proofing the material to ensure it is print ready. I am a prime example of Bill's ability because he always makes my material appear as if I am an outstanding writer. Please consider preparing an article for the newsletter.

We discussed photographing our work and having it displayed on our website. Dave Colon has agreed to take the photos. He will be doing some testing to make sure that he has the right setup. Once this is

done, we will plan a meeting at his shop where we can bring our work and have him photograph it for us. He will then work with Don McRoberts to get the photos posted on our website.

Chili Cook-off Craft Fair reminder: You will all probably get tired of me reminding you that we are going to participate in the craft fair again in 2011. It is not too early to start working on small items that can be sold at the fair. Again we are looking for small items in the \$5.00 to \$20.00 price range. The smaller, cheaper items sell best. - John Compston, President

This Month's Program

The program features our own Dave Mills demonstrating how to make a pepper mill from start to finish. The club has purchased 15 deluxe pepper mill mechanisms. These mechanisms will be on sale for \$10.00 each - exactly what the club paid. If you have never made one, it is a lot of fun, and they make great gifts. The meeting will be held at Dave's shop. Directions are at the bottom of page 4.

Go or No-Go Gauge

Have you ever "turned" yourself into a frothing-at-the-mouth lunatic, having rendered the recess or spigot diameter of your latest treasure to less than (or more than) the capacity of your scroll chuck? I have, and let me tell you it was not easy to remove the rust on my lathe bed caused by all that froth. There are solutions of course, which include re-turning the foot, innovative chucking, or buying a new set of jaws for your chuck. If you consistently turn in the middle of your chuck jaw's range, a problem is not so likely, but if you as you approach the limits of your chuck, bad things can happen. If you haven't had this happen, you likely someday will unless you consistently check the foot diameter while turning. I solved this problem for myself (thus far) by making what has been called a "Go No-Go Gauge".

To make this gauge, measure the maximum and minimum capacities of your scroll chuck in expansion mode. Then on a 3" x 6" (size is optional) piece of scrap hardboard (or whatever), transfer the minimum measurement to one side of the board and the maximum measurement to the other side. Don't go quite to the limits of your chuck as you will not have travel room left to grip the work. Keep in mind that if you are turning green wood and will have to re-true the foot later, you will have to leave a little extra room for that later process. Notch each side of the gauge accordingly and you have a quick and easy way to ensure you don't over or under your foot diameter.



Now make another gauge for the compression mode of your chuck. It is a good idea to mark each gauge for its intended use, e.g., Vicmarc 5 1/2" expansion mode. If you change jaws in your chuck, it is easy to make gauges for each set of jaws.

This gauge is not an invention of mine, but the person who first came up with this simple idea deserves praise. It has saved me time and aggravation. I hope it does the same for you. - Wayne Porter

Steady As She Goes

In their Fall 2009 issue, *Woodturning Design Magazine* published an article by David Campbell titled, "Plywood Steady Rest - Make It Yourself and Save Money". Well, since I've always liked saving money, I decided to make one of the steady rests (SR) to fit my lathe. The tall vase waiting to be made from a carob blank was also a deciding factor.

The article describes and pictures an SR for a large lathe, so it was necessary to scale it down to fit my Delta midi-lathe. As it turned out, it was also interesting and challenging to locate all the non-wood parts. In the paragraphs below, I'll briefly describe what I did to scale down the size of the SR, suggest a few minor enhancements to the design, and identify a few sources of supply for the parts. You may want

to refer to your copy of the magazine for clarification as I proceed. The article starts on Page 66. (If you do not have this issue of the magazine, you may be able to borrow it from another CVW member.)

The initial task for scaling the size (either up or down) is to measure the distance from the center of your lathe's headstock to its bed. On my lathe, the distance is five inches. That translated directly to the radius for the layout. From this number, I determined the size of the plywood stock I would need to layer together for the ring. I cut three 12-inch squares to leave enough room for sawing and sanding the rings later.

I chose one of the blanks to use for the layout and worked from one edge to lay out the circles, slots, and the flat base as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the article. The width of the "flat" is the width of my lathe bed. Next, I glued and screwed the three blanks together using the same screw pattern shown in the article. Next, I set up a dado blade in my table saw and cut the ring slots for the roller arms by removing just enough wood to leave a flat bottom in the slot and no farther into the center. Lastly, I cut the outer circle on my bandsaw and the inner circle with my jigsaw. Both were cut just outside the line, and then sanded to the line on my drum sander.

My roller arms are similar to those in the article, but they are shorter and made from oak. They should be long enough to allow the arms and wheels to reach the center at the same time, and still have an inch projecting outside the ring. I maximized the range of my arms three ways: First, I reversed the orientation of the carriage bolt and wing nuts to tighten from the back. This allowed



lengthening the slot so the head of the bolt could extend slightly under the wheel. The wheel's measurements and its spacing from the arm will limit the extension. Second, I moved the carriage bolt hole location in the ring slot to 1/2 inch from the outer edge of the ring. Third, I used countersunk flat head machine screws to mount the wheels so that the screw head could slide into the ring slot. These adjustments increased the maximum diameter of blanks I can turn to about 4 3/4 inches. To ensure precise alignment of the slot in the arm and the ring slot bolt hole, I completed construction of the arms first, then used a transfer punch through the arm slot to mark the hole location in the ring slots.



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I chose not to use the extra stability braces shown in Figure 9 of the article because I didn't think they were necessary for the smaller size ring. I shortened the securing block assembly (Figure 13) accordingly. I also changed the design of the under bed clamp block to an oak disc to improve the ability to slide the SR back and forth on the lathe bed without restriction. The diameter of the disc is 1/2 inch wider than the bed slot.

My search for materials involved the usual suspects and some different ones. All of the hardware, except for the wheel mounting screws, came from Lowes. I found them at Fastenal, but they had to be threaded farther up the shaft so that the nuts could be tightened on the arm. The wheel source was found after several phone calls and several store visits. To make a long story short, individual wheel and bearing sets are expensive. However, whole skateboards with smaller size urethane wheels and metal bearings are about \$25 at Big 5. I'm not sure what I'm going to do with a wheel-less skateboard, though.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it. If you decide to make you own SR, please contact me if you have questions or need clarification. – Bill Draper

Safety Tip

Always wear hearing protection if working in the shop for extended periods of time. As some of you may have noticed, several of our members already wear hearing aids, and there are some of the members who should. We don't give it much thought that the noise generated by our equipment is harmful to our hearing. We may not generate loud noises from our lathe, but if we are running a dust collection system or air compressor, the noise level will dramatically increase. We have enough outside influences that are detrimental to our hearing; we do not need to add another that can be controlled, especially when doing something we enjoy. – John Compston

Woodturner's Web Sites

[Woodturning Resource Center](#) – Visit Craft Supplies USA's newly redesigned Woodturning Resource Center. It contains a wealth of in-depth information which includes extensive step-by-step project articles with photos, shop tips and advice, techniques to hone your woodturning skills, and woodturning safety tips.

Dates to Remember

The Greater Vancouver Woodturners Guild is presenting the 2010 West Coast Roundup in Vancouver, B.C., on September 10–12, 2010. Alain Mailand, Art Liestman, Nick Cook, Michael Hosaluk, Graeme Priddle, Dale Larson, will give demonstrations and lectures on all aspects of woodturning. More information is available on the [Guild's web site](#).

The Honolulu Woodturners are having their Second Annual Honolulu Symposium October 16th & 17th, 2010. Demonstrators include Jimmy Clewes and many of Hawaii's top demonstrators. For more information visit <http://www.honoluluwoodturners.org>, or call Andy Cole at (808) 778-7036.

The 2nd Segmented Symposium will be held November 11-14, 2010, at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. Everyone interested in segmented turning, from novice to accomplished, is welcome and will benefit. Visit www.segmentedwoodturners.org for online registration and further information.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cvwnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the October 2010 newsletter is September 27th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will be held in Dave Mills' shop on September 11th at 9 a.m. at 20599 Highway 88 in the south end of Carson Valley. Drive south 4.2 miles past the California border to the Toiyabe National Forest sign and proceed another 75 yards. (If you end up in Woodfords, you went too far.) Turn left on Memdewee Down Street then right at the gate for Zuni Pines, then down the driveway to the green barn. We all appreciate Dave's willingness to hold CVW meetings in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-782-3542

Vice President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

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