



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



## President's Gouge

I would like to start by thanking all of the club members who assisted in obtaining and preparing the walnut that was distributed at the September meeting. Also a special thanks to Wayne Porter for the use of his equipment and shop for final preparation of the wood and hosting the meeting. There is still wood available for purchase. If you are interested, please contact Wayne Porter. We will be retaining some of the wood for use as raffle prizes, and the remainder will be offered for purchase to the Woodchucks.



We have received the lathes and chucks and will be getting them loaded in the trailer so that they will be available for meetings and special events. Thanks to Paul Cote, Dave Rich, and Eli Venzon for assembling the lathes and preparing them for use.



On September 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Bill Draper, Wayne Porter, Dave Mills, and I attended a workshop at Jimmy Clewes' shop in Las Vegas. A good time was had by all. Each attendee has prepared a short article in this newsletter regarding their experiences during the workshop.

At our last meeting I asked for volunteers to assist with identifying programs and to assist with making sure we had enough items for the raffle. Mel Swingrover and Paul Cote indicated they would help Dave Rich with the programs. Donna Dimmick volunteered to assist with the raffle prizes. I would like to thank each of you for stepping up to support CVW activities.

It is that time of year again when we need to think about election of officers. Please be prepared to nominate candidates at the October meeting so that we can hold elections at the November meeting.

Our October meeting will be held at Wayne Porter's shop located at 759 Gansberg Ct., Gardnerville, NV on October 8, 2011 at 9:00 AM. The program this month will include a presentation by Dave Mills regarding the use of the double bevel grind on the bowl gouge. Also, Wayne Porter will discuss and demonstrate the turning of an ogee curve. Lastly, John Compston will demonstrate the turning of the top portion of a goblet. Bill Draper will be providing editorial comments regarding what we learned at our Jimmy Clewes workshop. – John Compston

## Notes on the Jimmy Clewes Class in Las Vegas

**Clueless about Clewes.** When I signed up to go to the Jimmy Clewes class in Vegas, I had some idea of what to expect from the demo and one-day training he provided at our club meeting. However, I was not prepared for the outcome at the end of the three-day class. At the beginning of the class he asked me what I wanted to accomplish during the three days. I told him I wanted to do a colored piece, a piece with an inlay, and a long stemmed goblet. By the end of the class I had completed each project I had identified and improved my turning skill to a level I could never have achieved without his assistance.

Jimmy is an outstanding turner, however, he is an even better instructor. Other than observing other professional turners at some of our meeting, and previously taking the one day training, I have relied on observing some of our club members and the trial and error method of improving my turning skills. With



the small class size of four students, and Jimmy's ability to make you feel comfortable, I was able to extract a massive amount of information. Each time Jimmy demonstrated a technique he explained the technique as he demonstrated it. I was able to effectively recreate the technique as I turned my item. I gained knowledge in the use of each tool and several ways to apply



the tool to the particular cut I was attempting to accomplish. I learned that larger is not always better as much of my turning was accomplished with the 1/4" bowl gouge with a traditional grind and a micro bevel grind. I also made use of my 1/4" spindle gouge. In the past my finishing had primarily been applying numerous coats of rub-on poly or walnut oil. It was interesting to take my finishing to a new level with the use of sanding sealer (shellac), oil, and paste wax. This opened up a whole new area for me for finishing my work. I had a mishap during the finishing of my long stemmed goblet. As I was attempting to burnish the sanding sealer with steel wool it became entangled and the stem snapped. We were able to save it and I will always keep it as a reminder that you must take as much care in finishing as you do in turning.

If I had to say what was the most enlightening thing or things I learned in class I would have to bring it down to two points which would be speed and sharp tools. Speed of the lathe allows for a much more effortless cut and the sharpness of the tool allows the tool to make the cut without forcing it. In the past I had problems picking up the cut on either the inside or outside of the item and several times during the training I was confronted with the same issue. Jimmy explained that this was because the tool was not sharp. I took the tool to the grinder and when I returned to my project, I was able to pick up the cut without leaving a ridge.

At the end of the training I had vastly improved my turning skills and far exceeded any expectations I may have had regarding what I would be able to accomplish. There will not be a future project that I will not use one of the techniques I learned, and I will fondly remember the three days I spent in Vegas with good friends and one of the premier turners and instructors in the world. I will continue to recall the events of the training and from now on will not be "Clueless about Clewes". – John Compston

**Mining for Gold in Vegas.** Just got back from the Jimmy Clewes turning class in Las Vegas. My goal was not to come home with nice pieces that were produced in the class, but to improve my techniques. If you know how to use the tools, you can make anything your heart desires.



The truth is a lot of the pieces produced are done together with the instructor showing the student on the piece and the student practicing on the technique at the same time. At Jimmy's first class I rediscovered the pull cut and how to round the edge of a bowl blank with a bowl gouge. I had used the pull cut years ago at a Craft Supplies turning class but when I got home I could not do it without a catch. At Jimmy's class, I discovered my grind on the gouge was wrong, and voilà! I had the pull cut back! Whenever I see demonstrations I am amazed when they



hog out a piece with chips flying and wood disappearing at phenomenal rates. I guess what I learned this week is how to hog out lots of wood really quick. I learned all about the skew chisel which I plan to share with our members, how to use parting tools for shear scraping, how to turn beads better with the spindle gauge, hogging out with spindle gouge, how to grind scrapers a better way, better tool control with scrapers, and turning at high speeds and how it makes turning easier

(which is hard for me with my history of injuries on the lathe). I learned about new finishing products and how to apply them, and last but not least, to keep my back to Bill Draper when he launches a bowl off his lathe ... in my direction - just kidding. All these things are little nuggets that you cannot put a price on. Jimmy Clewes is one of the best on the planet at what he does and a great teacher. I have taken classes from other instructors that are intimidating and it's hard to relax - not with Jimmy. You cannot put a price on these nuggets to me. They are priceless. Got to go now and practice before I forget all these things I learned. - Dave Mills

**It's Fast in Las Vegas.** Some people say that Jimmy Clewes turns too fast. BUNK! I never saw him turning faster than 3,000 RPM - of course that *is* as fast as his lathes would go. I can now unequivocally attest to the fact that the higher the rpm's the smoother and faster the cut. So long as there is not any undue vibration, and the piece is held securely, I found the higher revs a much preferred method of turning for me.

What a great turner and instructor Jimmy is. Three days of nonstop turning and instruction can really hone your skills. What a *fun, frustrating, educational, and productive experience*. **Fun:** Because you just can't help but have fun when you are turning with Jimmy and your friends. **Frustrating:** Because I



could have been turning all this time with a much higher success rate "if I had only known". There was so much I didn't know; things I did know and didn't do; tools I should have bought long ago, and tools I bought and shouldn't have. **Educational:** With Jimmy there as a guide and teacher, I was able to learn new techniques and correct some old bad habits.



What a relief to be able to use my tools the way they were intended to be used. Draw cuts, push cuts, fast cuts, tiny cuts, shear cuts; I was never *sure* when to use them. **Productive:** I came home with four finished pieces of work, and they each one incorporated some technique I had not utilized before. I believe I can justly say they were all a step up from what I had produced prior to the class, because my wife does not want me sell or give away any of them.

If asked what two things were the most enlightening to me, I would have to say: (1) The finish cut is a very, very small cut and of utmost importance, (all my sanding started between 180 grit and 320 grit paper instead of the 80 grit I was accustomed to). (2) Taking a class with a limited number of students, (3 or 4), from an instructor who truly knows how to *turn and teach* as Jimmy Clewes does, can save you years of trial and error learning. - Wayne Porter

**Satellites Eventually Return to Earth.** One of the benefits of being the newsletter editor is that I had the opportunity to read my classmates' articles before I had to start on mine. Therefore, I find that I wholeheartedly agree with everything that was written above, and find that I don't have much to add. A cop-out you say? Not really, because I have to admit to setting the class record for distance with a really bad catch. I was somewhat frustrated by a really annoying (but beautiful) piece of English walnut and finally had it mounted in Cole Jaws on my lathe to remove the foot. I bore down too hard on a cut, caught the edge of the foot, and launched the bowl. (I guess I learned nothing from a similar



launch in my own shop.) The bowl left the lathe going away from me, went over Dave's and John's heads, and hit the shop door about 15 feet away with a loud bang. Fortunately, there were no injuries except to my pride. The bowl suffered several dents. Lessons Learned: Cole Jaws don't hold onto things very well. Take light cuts when using them, or use jam or vacuum chucks instead. In July 2008 I published a newsletter article on how to calculate rota-

tional speed of lathe objects at their rim. Using the formula with 800 RPM and 9" diameter, I calculated that the bowl left the lathe at about 22 MPH. I'm very glad nobody was standing in the launch trajectory. Notwithstanding this woodshop faux pas, I really enjoyed the class, learned a lot, have several nice objects to show for it, and highly recommend it to others. – Bill Draper

## Burdg Perch

Here is short description of the stand I made for the articulating chuck holder that I bought from Ron Burd. It is simple fast and effective. With a stand like this you can place the work as close to you as you like, and it is adjustable in height so you can sit in front of it while you work. I've included a few pictures and they explain a lot about how it is put together. As you can see from the pictures it is quite stable even with a large out-of-round turning attached. – Wayne Porter



### Parts:

**Base:** One cultivator disk (In my case a free used disc from a rancher.)

**Smaller pipe:** One 1" I.D. pipe to fit the holder (Scrap yard find or the dump, free.)

**Larger pipe:** One pipe with an I.D. that allows the smaller pipe to slip inside (Garage sale, \$0.25. Weld larger pipe to the base. Cultivator base has a square hole in the center.)

**Adjusting screws:** Two tee-handle screws (Pipes are drilled and tapped to match the T-screws; in my case it was 3/8 x 16 TPI. Used equipment sale, \$0.50 each.)

**Paint:** 1/2 can of any color spray paint (Left over from some previous project.)

**Total parts cost:** \$1.25 (Your cost will depend upon your negotiating skills and junk collecting habits, plus \$150.00 for the articulating chuck holder.)

## Woodturner's Web Sites

[Hartville Tool](#) – Hartville tool has a new web site. It has a different appearance and seems to be faster than the old one, but it does not have the same capability. As of this writing, it does not calculate our CVW club discount, and it does not have records of our previous orders. When queried, their customer support folks said they are working to restore all the former capability, that they have a record of our 15% club discount, and that they still offer free shipping for a \$75 purchase or more. It might be best to phone-in your orders until they fix the web site.

## Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via [cvwnews@charter.net](mailto:cvwnews@charter.net) no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the November 2011 newsletter is October 31<sup>st</sup>.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and program will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. The address is 759 Gansburg Court, just off Highway 88 in Carson Valley. If you find yourself in California, you went too far. We all appreciate Wayne's willingness to hold CVW meetings in his shop.

### Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-690-6011

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Vice President: Dave Rich – 775-265-3099

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

[www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com](http://www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com)

### Resources

The Carson Valley Woodturners wish to express our appreciation for the support provided by generous vendors. Please visit their stores and web sites for your woodturning and woodworking needs.

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