



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

As a club we have had another excellent year, culminating with our annual Christmas Party hosted by Dave and Pat Colon. The party was well attended and a good time was had by all. I would like to give a special thank you to Donna Dimmick for coordinating this year's party.

On three occasions club members were able to take out their trusty chain saws and make good use of them in preparing black walnut and aspen. Dave Rich coordinated a trip to northern California to obtain black walnut, Rich Sheldrew a trip to Foothill Road for aspen, and Wayne Porter a trip to central California for more black walnut. Club members cut and sealed the wood, which was made available to club members for a nominal fee. The club still has aspen and black walnut if anyone is interested.

During 2011 the club purchased two Delta midi lathes which have been put to good use. In October the club started monthly hands-on sessions where club members, who also must be members of AAW, were able to bring projects to turn with the assistance of other club members. This program has really taken off. At the first session we had four lathes and eight people attend. At our last session held Friday, December 16th, we had six lathes available and 14 members attended even though it was just a week before Christmas. When I joined the club in December 2007, we were lucky to get 10 members at a regular meeting and now we are getting more at the hands-on sessions. (During 2011 our club membership grew to 32 members.)

At our January meeting we will be soliciting input from our members with regards to our direction for 2012 hands-on sessions. I see the hands-on sessions becoming a big part of this year's activities. From the feedback we have received from those attending, it appears that these sessions have been one of the best tools to help improve the turning skills of our members.

I have submitted a grant request to the AAW for funding to purchase two additional lathes, but we will not know until March if we have been selected. I have spoken to the principal of Silver Stage High School regarding returning to the school for sessions with the woodshop class, and early next year we will again be making the trip to Silver Stage High School. After working with the students last year, they turned pens that were provided to the Lyon County School District and were subsequently presented to teachers in the District who had reached tenure. They are planning to do the same this year. With the addition of the club lathes and other lathes that individuals have available, we may be able to accommodate six student work stations on our next visit. We will be working on this project and I will be calling on club members to volunteer their time for our visits.



With the election of new officers, Mel Swingrover has taken the job as Vice President and Wayne Ferree has become the Club Librarian. Anyone interested in checking out any of our video resources should talk with Wayne. Paul Cote has stepped up as the Club Photographer and has been recording our club activities. Paul and Don McRoberts (our webmaster) have been working together to get club photos placed on the website. Make sure you visit the site and take a look at what has been posted.

I would like to close by thanking all of you who have helped make this club what it is today. The list is too long to mention each of you and your assistance, however, be assured that it has not gone unnoticed. I am very excited looking forward to 2012 and seeing what we will be able to accomplish. Good turning and I look forward to working with you all in 2012. - John Compston, President

This Month's Program

January's program will feature our own Frank Miller as the demonstrator. His presentation, "Turning Air", will be about turning square shapes and the correct tool presentation to accomplish this. Frank will demonstrate turning spatula and bowl items in square form. He will talk about tool angles, tool control, and how some problems are created relative to skews, gouges, and scrapers. Sharpening will also be discussed. The main lesson from "Turning Air" is tool control, and finding and maintaining the cutting angle. Interspersed will be some comments and discussion about the history of woodworking and what we should learn from it. See page 4 for the meeting location and directions. – Mel Swingrover

Blather

Santa was good to me this year. He dropped off a Penn State Industries variable speed upgrade kit for my older Delta midi lathe. It consisted of a DC motor, a 3-step pulley mounted on the motor, a mounting bracket/template, a 7mm drill bit, an Allen wrench, and one page of installation instructions. All of these items conspired to provide several days of challenges and creative solutions.

I also complicated the installation by deciding to install a reversing switch using the wiring schematic found in the December 2011 issue of *American Woodturner*. I didn't like the construction method presented in the article, so I came up with my own design. I obtained a switch and a mounting box from Radio Shack, and two connectors for the motor connections from an online supplier. I was now ready to proceed with the modified installation.

Almost at once I realized how much modification was necessary. The installation instructions required that the original motor pulley be mounted on the new motor shaft. The only problem was a big one: it didn't fit. The motor manufacturer machined the shaft to fit the supplied 3-step pulley, not the reused 6-step pulley. The diameter of the shaft increased just past the length of the 3-step pulley. I did not have the tools to reduce the diameter, so Frank Miller came to the rescue. After some analysis of potential solutions, we ultimately reduced the motor shaft diameter so that the 6-step pulley would slide onto the shaft.

The installation instructions also required the reuse of the old Delta motor mounting bracket. The bracket/template that came with the kit was used to mark and drill the required holes to mount the motor.

Now to the problem of where to mount the controls. As you can see in the picture at the right, I used a metal plate and aluminum angle to mount the control box at the original switch location. The power cords were secured in the old clips on the back of the headstock.



Because the motor power cord was supplied with connectors that separate the controller from the motor, I decided to insert my redesigned reversing switch between the connectors. The finished product is shown in the pictures at the right. I used rare earth magnets to attach the box to the lathe bed and easily permit relocation when necessary for cleaning, etc. As you can see, the mounting location is somewhat inconvenient. Hopefully, this will prevent me from wanting to reverse direction while the lathe is turning (not a good thing to do.)



At this point, the installations were complete and everything seemed to work just fine, but I hadn't tried turning anything just yet. I wanted to determine how fast the lathe was turning on the various steps for a baseline measurement, so I got out my handheld tachometer. It works by shining a laser on a reflective strip on the headstock shaft and is very accurate.



The provided instructions were clear – don't use the lathe on the two fastest pulley steps. (Some folks might say that Mr. Clewes might use them!) Anyway, I decided to test them for the record. The instructions were somewhat inaccurate, though. They stated that the speed range across all six pulley steps should be 425 through 6600 RPM. I measured them to be 750 through 9000 RPM!! Just a tad off the mark. It seemed a call to Penn State was in order. After getting bounced around a bit, I finally spoke with a person who identified several adjustments on the controller circuit board labeled *Hi* and *Lo* which should permit me adjust the speed. He said that because the manufacturer refuses to provide them, there are no written instructions for adjustment. One must therefore use the trial-and-error adjustment method, and use non-conductive adjustment tools.

While trying to avoid the error part of the method, I decided after some experimentation that I had found a good place to stop. Step 1 ranged from 100 – 1400, step 2 from 200 – 2300, step 3 from 300 – 3350, and step 4 from 400 – 4900. I chickened-out testing the two faster steps because I am not likely to use them. (Some of you know what I mean when I say that I can only imagine how far a bowl would fly out of Cole Jaws at 4900 RPM!! Don't try this at home – 800 RPM is fast enough.)

It was now time to mount some wood, and some buggly walnut got the call. In general, the new upgrade with modifications worked just fine. I will admit to probably trying to get a ½ HP DC motor and its controller to do too much, but I found that while I could not stop the lathe with a heavy cut (not a catch) at the outside diameter, it would draw too much current and trip the overload switch on the back of the controller. It reset after about 15 seconds or so. I will have to remember to take lighter cuts and/or use a lower pulley step to get more torque.

So, what do I think of the upgrade kit? I can't guess how well it works on different lathe models, but it required a lot of effort to get it to work on my lathe. Penn State says the motor shaft has been made that way for years, so my guess is that it won't be changed. I think they could add a lot more differentiating detail to their installation instructions, and they should beat up their supplier and get detailed controller circuit board adjustment procedures. Lastly, the 3-step diagram sticker on the top of the controller box is worthless for my installation with the exception of keeping wood chips and dust out of the controller. Hopefully, I'll get many years of use from the upgrade. (BTW, don't discard the old AC motor and switch like the instructions suggest in case you need to put it all back.) – Bill Draper

Woodturner's Web Sites

[West Penn Hardwoods](#) – This company is a supplier of domestic and exotic wood that specializes in turning wood, pen blanks, exotic hardwood lumber, and burls. Their prices seem reasonable and they offer free shipping/freight for certain volume or dollar amount purchases.

Dates to Remember

The 26th Annual AAW symposium will be held in San Jose, CA, Friday June 8th through Sunday June 10, 2012, at the San Jose Convention & Cultural Facilities. Registration for the 2012 symposium will be available online in January. The symposium is open to anyone with an interest in woodturning. Full registration fee includes demonstrations, the Instant Gallery, trade show exhibitions, auctions, and membership for non-members. Symposium fees are: Through May 15, 2012: \$250 for members and \$310 for non-members. After May 15, 2012: \$300 for members and \$360 for non-members. After May 28th and onsite: \$350 for members and \$410 for non-members. For cancellations through May 15, 2012, a \$50 processing fee will be deducted. After May 15th, the registration fee is not refundable

The Woodturners of Olympia are presenting their fifth annual symposium, "Creativity in Woodturning" featuring David Ellsworth on July 28, 2012 from 7:50 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. It will be held at the Komachin Middle School in Lacey, Washington. The price is \$90 until May 31st after which it will increase to \$100. Youth under the age of 18 attending with an adult can attend for \$10. All prices include lunch and prizes. The day will start with James Leary conducting a "Primer on Spindle Turning – Basic Cuts". He is followed for the rest of the day by David Ellsworth who will be demonstrating his bowl making and hollow form techniques. David will also lead four hands-on workshops which are limited to eight participants per day. Workshops scheduled for Sunday, July 29th and Tuesday, July 31st will cover cut-rim and natural edge bowls. Workshops scheduled for Monday, July 30th and Wednesday, August 1st will cover hollow forms. The cost for each of the workshops is \$150. For more information or to register for the symposium or classes, go to their web site: <http://www.woodturnersofolympia.org>, call Al Price at 360-791-0396, or email him at aprice44@aol.com.

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 February 2012 newsletter is January 30th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and demonstration will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on January 14th 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 a CVW meeting in his shop.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: John Compston – 775-690-6011

Treasurer: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

Vice President: Mel Swingrover – 775-783-3299

Secretary: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com

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