



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



April 2014



President's Gouge

I would once again like to thank Wayne Porter for hosting the March meeting and all of you who brought sweet goodies to share. I would also like to thank everyone who helped during the presentation, Frank Miller – video, Paul Cote – photographs, and those of you who helped clean up after the meeting. I also want to thank Don McRoberts for keeping our website up to date, and a very special thanks to Bill Draper for putting together our outstanding newsletter. We had an excellent turnout at the meeting and I would especially like to thank Frank Miller for coordinating and hosting our March presenter Stacey Hager and his wife who were visiting Frank and Jane from Texas.

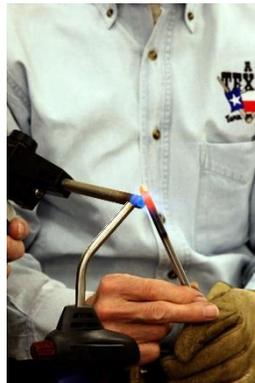
Stacey is an excellent instructor and presented an outstanding program on manufacturing your own turning tools.

Stacey made a point tool from tool steel, and took us through the process from grinding, to tempering, to using the tool. Several members of the board have discussed having a tool making hands-on session, and if you are interested, please contact Dave Mills or Wayne Porter.

I am truly impressed with the items being brought in for the show-and-tell. It is exciting to see some of our new members bring in their items, and to see the improvement in their turning skills from earlier items that they brought. It is always exciting to see what some of our more accomplished turners have been working on. I always get new ideas for something I would like to try to turn myself.

Wayne Allen has really stepped up to the plate in turning items for our upcoming craft fair at the Cowboy Festival in Genoa the first part of May. Wayne Porter has his cast off and is now able to turn. I know he and Dave Mills have turned and will be turning a number of items for the fair. I would like to challenge our other members also to turn items for this sale. I know some of you think your skills are not good enough, however, Ken Crosby, who was a new turner last year, turned an item at the last Cowboy Festival

Turn Here for Safety
Sign required by law in California professional woodshops: Drilling, sawing, sanding, or machining wood products generates wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer. Avoid inhaling wood dust, or use a dust mask or other safeguards for personal protection.





and sold it during the show. Please consider turning several items for the fair. If you are willing to turn something for the fair, please contact Dave Mills and he will provide you with the wood to use for any items you turn for the club to sell at the fair.

NOTE: Our May meeting will be the fair at the Cowboy Festival. We will not be holding our regular meeting on the second Saturday of May.

I also want to let you know that we have a double booth space in the large gym for this year's Christmas Craft Fair at the Carson High School. With better exposure and a larger booth, I think we will do very well again this year.

I understand we had another outstanding hands-on session with 17 members in attendance. Sorry I missed it, but heard from Dave and Wayne that it was a great success – John Compston, President [Photos by Paul Cote]

This Month's Program

Angie Murphy, Pyrographer, will provide a woodburning presentation that will demonstrate techniques that can be applied to woodturning. Here is Angie's Artist Statement:

"I began drawing at a very young age; as I grew, so did my skills as an artist. Graphite and charcoal have been my favorite mediums to use for reproductions. When presented with the opportunity to expand my artistic horizons through pyrography, I jumped on it.

What I have discovered is that I am in love with wood - I have come to appreciate the beautiful tones I uncover as I sand stumps. The aroma of wood as it burns has become my therapy... my calm... my happy place.

Although I am able to burn any image, I receive the most satisfaction from custom portraits of beloved family including kids, whether they be furry, feathered, or otherwise. These are the jewels of the soul. My heart swells when I see tears of joy streaming past a smile because of what I was able to create... giving more than what was expected."

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Demo Day

We have really had some great presenters demonstrating at our meetings, and this past Saturday was no exception. Stacey Hager put on a fantastic show for us. A big thank you to his good friend Frank Miller for getting Stacey here. Stacey is very knowledgeable when it comes to the history of woodworking tools, and designing and making tools. His considerable knowledge of metallurgy, though uncommon in today's woodworkers, proved to be of great value in heat-treating the tools he makes. I had a chance to try out the Point Tool he makes from 5/16" round stock and it works so well it will likely be my V-groove tool of choice as well as my bead tool (make two V-grooves and then roll the bead in both directions on each side). It was so simple I rolled a nice bead on the first try. Stacey says it doesn't make quite as nice of a cut as a spindle gouge, but heck, I don't mind dropping down one grit in the sanding process to get a fast and nicely formed bead (not a problem for Dave Mills because he starts with 40 grit anyway). I tried Stacey's Half-

Round Tool next, and I have never cut an easier cove that was perfectly formed. Wow! I can't wait to make and try a cove tool. Now I'm going to have to set up a heat-treating station and follow his demo and instructions on tempering the tools I make. This could literally save me millions of dollars in new tool purchases (based on what my wife says I have already spent). I love that girl; she lets me buy tools and I let her buy sewing machines—so many in fact that the local stores call her when they run low on inventory. I didn't say that, did I?

Perhaps at one of the hands-on sessions not too far in the future, we could have a tool making day if the interest is there.

Stacey Hager: Entertaining, knowledgeable, informative, talented, and to boot he is one of the really nice guys. He says he would like to come back and I really hope he does. – Wayne Porter

March Hands-On Report

We had another good turnout for our hands-on. Seventeen members, one delinquent dog, and our in-house sewing specialist Margie Flamenbaum. I can see I have a big job ahead of me when Rusty Porter spends his vacation at Zuni Pines while Wayne and Maggie Porter sneak away to Texas for some R&R, probably from Big R (Rusty). Last time Big R graced our presence, it took me two weeks to straighten out his bad habits. Today I am walking in the shop and Paul Tanaka yells out, “Dave, can you control your dog? He's got my handicapped placard and he's about to eat it.” Now Paul has a half-eaten sign to hang in his window.

Hands-on are like snowflakes—no two are the same. Last time, not enough lathes to go around. This time, we had groups trying out different tools and experimenting. Frank Miller made three new tools out of my old gouges that were too short to sharpen that I was going to toss. They work great for cutting recesses on the inside rims of bowls. Frank is our go-to guy in the club whether it is making a kiln, video stuff, or making tools. Now if he would just clean my shop. Other goings-on: Wayne Porter did a how-to on the Holdfast vacuum system. There was also the usual stuff: sharpening, cutting up member's wood for turning, and trips to the woodshed. That's better than a trip behind the woodshed. Had to make a second pot of coffee. 40 cups was not enough. It's that Zuni Blend. I caught Ron Burdg red handed trying to put Zuni Blend in a STARBUCKS cup!! It was good to see Ron at a hands-on today. It's been awhile. The only problem is he cost me \$90.00. Ron is another resource we have in our club with all the good tools he develops. I always learn something at our hands-on and today was no exception. I actually learned something from Gary Hathaway! The only thing he's ever tried to teach me is grammar and spelling, and that is hopeless.



We are in the process of trying to put together a summer barbecue for members and spouses the 2nd Saturday in July. John Drown and Dewayne Walker are checking out locations. John Drown has graciously offered to barbecue the main dishes and we will be asking our members to bring side dishes. Wonder if John knows how to cook, hmm? We tried this last year, got started too late, and it never made it to liftoff. Hopefully, we will be more successful this year. We will be sending out the details when we have all the information.

Well, everyone has left; the shop is spic and span. Man, I wish it were this clean all the time. Not really. I gotta fess up. I like it dirty with shavings up to my waist and my dust mask black with dust! That means I've been doing what I love—turning! – Dave Mills [Photo by Bill Draper]

The Tri-Access, Electronically Activated, Heat-Sensing, Mobile, Cellulose-Weight-Reduction-Via-Water-Molecule-Manipulation, Multi-Vented, Stainless Steel Reduction Chamber. (Wayne's upscale version of Dave's "Cooker")

It all started with Frank Miller; the purveyor of "F-7", (Frank's Fantastically Fast & Friendly Fine Finish Formula): That's the short version. Check with me for this secret formula, I have it for sale cheap.

As often happens, two woodturners, this time Frank Miller and Dave Mills, were talking over some of the more difficult aspects of turning wood when the topic of drying wet, rough-turned bowls came up. Methods of drying such as alcohol baths, microwave drying, multiple layers of paper bags, boiling, and packing in wood shavings were surely discussed, but the method that would require the most work before the first bowl was dried, was to build a wood drying kiln. Of course, this was not a problem for Frank, or so he thought, because he had convinced Dave that "Dave" needed to build one of these kilns. It was decided, by I don't know whom, that the simplest and cheapest way to build one would be to convert an old freezer. It just so happened that due to some mysterious electrical phenomenon that exists in Dave's shop, which produces 230 volts in a 115 circuit and 80 volts in a circuit designed for 115 volts, Dave had a freezer that was perfect for the job. After two years of an extra 115 volts the freezer decided to rebel. Give Frank credit for finding the problem and Dave credit for hiring the electrician...again.

Well, after Frank did some research and figured out what was needed to make Dave's cooker work, Frank ordered the parts and presented Dave with the bill. Then came the work, and after a day or two of Frank installing and wiring the electronics, and Dave drilling holes and making upper and lower vents, the project was ready for testing and tweaking. All went well and Dave was cooking his roughed-out bowls.

After only one day Dave was so overjoyed with the results, he was calling me daily to report on weight loss in the bowls. "Wayne you need one of these ... 3-1/2 # bowl lost 9 ounces overnight, man you gotta get one ... 6 # bowl lost 2 # in two days, no cracks and almost no warping". On and on it went. OK, I can take only so much ... Frank Help! I need one. Frank to me ... "No problem, Wayne, you do a lot for the Club ... glad to help ... here is what you need".

Well, I'm all in now and it's off to Marty's Appliance Store in Minden to ask for a used freezer that he doesn't want. Once again, "No problem. There is a bunch out back to choose from. Just don't bring it back...got any friends that need one?" Everything is fine up to this point and I think it is getting better as I sort through the selection of bone-yard bound refrigerators and freezers. This one is OK; that one is even better; WOW! Look at that! A three-foot wide double-door refrigerator with a freezer door on the bottom ... and it's STAINLESS STEEL! What luck. I'll be one-upping Dave and is he going to be so jealous. The Jones's don't have a chance. I called Dave and got him to help me move the refrigerator to my place using his truck and gas. I was ahead there too until I got the bill for lunch. I forgot to leave my wallet at home this time. Dave agrees that bigger is better, and I can't help but point out that mine has stainless steel doors. "Yeah, yeah, yeah", he says, but I can see that the gleam of jealousy creeping into his eye. I told him how it was going to be really nice because mine was going to have three doors. He pretended not to hear me. You know how Dave is always acting as if he has a hearing problem ... until you say, "free wood", or "I have a gun for sale".

Now the fun starts. The parts I ordered arrive and the call goes out to Frank who is Johnny-on-the-spot with a carload of tools. Day One: We spend five or six hours drilling and wiring, (I did a little drilling and Frank did all the wiring). Day Two: We spend ALL DAY with me doing a little more drilling and Frank finishing up the wiring and programming the controller (computer). Note here that the heat source is a 60-watt light bulb controlled by a bunch of stuff that only Frank knows what it is. The time has arrived for the big test. Uh oh, it comes up to temperature and keeps on going. Fiddle, fiddle, fiddle, and it starts to work properly ... until Frank goes home to Jane. (Jane wants to know if Frank has a new job he hasn't



told her about). Day Three: We had waited several days for the computer to realize its mistake, but it isn't very smart, so Frank and I start wiring the whole thing over again with much better results. The computer has been re-educated and is working per specifications. Of course, we had to wire in TWO MORE light bulbs as one was not enough for the "one-up Dave" size cooker. Oh, and don't forget the two big holes that had to be cut between the freezer section and the reefer. Add a roll of duct tape to cover up the insulation that was exposed. Oh yes, you might be interested in knowing that most reefers, unlike freezers, have glass shelves these days. Now, because air will not flow through glass, I had to find some sort of wire shelving. Back to Marty's to acquire all the shelves from his freezers, none of which wound up fitting, so I have many spare freezer parts. Next was a trip to the Silver State Roofing and used building materials store. A one-hour search revealed an old dog kennel that would work just fine if I spent an hour or two cutting it up and grinding the edges. I got a great deal on the kennel and have some more parts left over. Have I mentioned yet that the wire shelves I made from the kennel were barking up the door (pun), so it necessitated the removal of the ice maker, the through the door water and ice dispenser, and a portion of the inside of one door, which was not a problem because I had a whole roll of duct tape. For various reasons the compressor, freezer cooling coils, lights, fans, and various other parts also had to be evacuated. I have spare parts ... three garbage cans full.



Only a couple of things left for me to do before actually putting some wood in the thing: The handle on the freezer section was missing, and I needed to put some vents in the door (one high and one low), that could be used to adjust the airflow. I solved the handle problem with an old hand towel rack. I had to use a pipe bender to make the handle fit the contour of the curved (very stylish) reefer doors, which resulted in a kinked towel bar. I found some 1/2" square tubing that fit perfectly into the round towel bar holders ... perfect ... almost. After dulling two drill bits I gave up on trying to drill a hole in the #*&^() stainless steel doors.

Sooo, I welded up and painted a completely new handle that would fit the original handle holes and bolts. Time to move on to the adjustable vents. What to use ... a search of ALL local stores revealed nothing was to be had. I wanted something that was plastic so rust wouldn't be running down my fantastic stainless steel doors. Oh, wait. I can't drill into the stainless doors to install the vents. No problem the side of the reefer is not stainless. The vents go in the side. About now, I'm not so fond of stainless steel regardless of the one-upmanship.

The five-hour search for vents ended after an hour-long search of Home Depot, with me realizing that I had the perfect solution at home all the time. I used two 4" plastic blast gates left over from my dust collection system, and I believe they are going to work well ... and being on the side, they don't mess up the look of the stainless steel doors. Poor Dave will be drooling.

Frank was a saint through this whole ordeal and I really appreciate him and Jane for putting up with "no Frank" for three days. When the project was almost done, I gave Frank the good news that he was almost done, and the bad news that he was almost done. As I was helping Dewayne Walker finish up his Beaver Jig, Dewayne saw my reefer conversion and went out and got an old freezer to convert. Of course Frank said, "No problem, Dewayne's a good guy and does a lot of stuff for the Club. I'll help him". Therefore, I volunteered to help too. Cooker # three is in the works. Thank you Frank and Jane.

There is a footnote to this story. While Dave and I were picking up the reefer from Marty's Appliance, we found a Pyrex baking dish in the freezer bin that looked like new. I told Dave, "Wow! Maggie is going to really like that". I set it in the front seat of Dave's pickup, and I swear I took it out when we got to my house. So I told Maggie all about it and she was thrilled. A couple of days later I was looking everywhere for that Pyrex and it wasn't to be found. I sent an email to Dave asking if he was enjoying all those baked goods cooked in the stolen dish, and he commented on how much Kathy appreciated it. The entire club deserves brownies at the next meeting for that one. At least my cooker has stainless steel doors, and three of them to boot! I expect Dave's will be painted "Camo" for the next meeting.

Footnote two: Frank decided we needed to measure the moisture inside the kiln, so it is back to the internet looking for the right model moisture meter. I ordered three for all the cookers. So far two have arrived and been installed. Yahoo! I just put the first wet bowl blank in my "High Class" Tri-Access, Electronically Activated, Heat-Sensing, Mobile, Cellulose-Weight-Reduction-Via-Water-Molecule-Manipulation, Multi-Vented, Stainless Steel Reduction Chamber. Come to the next meeting and see it in person. Bring sunglasses—that stainless is bright. – Wayne Porter

Every Day is Christmas

By now, you probably have heard about the cooker, the new wood drying kiln Frank Miller and I put together out of the old freezer in the shop that gave up the ghost. It suffered a premature death from having 220 volts going to the 110 volt motor. Somehow, the circuit that was 110 turned into 220. My buddy Kris Hartnet came to the rescue and straightened out my electrical issues, even got my 1965 (circa) Coke machine back up and running.

Don't know how Christmas was at your house growing up, whether you opened your presents Christmas Eve versus Christmas morning. All my friends and enemies, it seemed, got to open theirs on Christmas Eve. They would call me up and I had to listen about the great presents they just opened. All this drivel about I got my Red Ryder, that new Schwinn, blah, blah, blah. Then they would ask, what cool stuff did you get? My standard answer, we don't open until Christmas morning after Santa comes down the chimney. Mom always let me open one present on Christmas Eve. I would circle the tree checking out the gifts picking them up rattling and squeezing to find just the right one. I would tell her, "that one." Invariably she would say, "No, pick another." Naturally, the one I got to open was some flannel shirt or the biggie, new socks! I would then put out the story all my friends get to open their presents tonight why can't I? You know the answer; we have to wait for SANTA. Thinking to myself, I am 12 years old and I have to wait for %\$^*&(@# Santa?

Every day is now Christmas since I installed the cooker. This thing does such an unbelievable job speeding up the drying process; it makes the invention of the wheel insignificant. I have tried everything under the sun to get wet turnings to dry quickly with little or no cracking. I have sealed the newly turned piece completely and set aside to dry. Works OK but sometimes takes a year or more. I have put in paper bags with wet shavings. I burned up a perfectly good microwave trying to speed up the process. Tried sleeping with turnings under my pillow. You name it, I have tried it. I am too cheap to go out and purchase seasoned wood and most of it still has to be put aside to dry.

This new kiln is like cheating on your taxes! It has to be illegal! I rough turn a piece, put a little sealer on the end grain, write the date and wet weight on the bottom, and stick it in the cooker. When I say every day is Christmas it is to me. I cannot wait to get to the shop each morning, walk to the cooker, and grab the latest turning. After checking the weight loss from the day before I get all giddy, like the people on TV about how much they lost on weight watchers! Marie Osmond will be calling me for the secret, I'm sure. I have had wet turnings lose as much as 25% of their weight in 24 hours! I know you're thinking this guy suffers from too much time alone with no supervision. This stuff really excites him! If you're serious about turning and want to increase your output, think about a kiln. You can go to any appliance store and

ask them if they have any junkers, and they will probably give you your choice. The fans, lights, and sensors will cost \$80 to \$125.00 new and you are in the wood drying business. If you are a scrounger, you might have some or all of the parts laying around the house. All you need are a couple of fans, a heat source, a light bulb or two, and a way to control the heat. Cut in some vents so you can regulate the moisture and you are ready to go. If you want to get fancy, add a moisture meter (optional).

You guys and gals can call me this Christmas Eve and tell me about the presents you just got. That's OK with me. I have Christmas every day! – Dave Mills

Skewed DVD Review



The Skew Chisel: the Dark Side and the Sweet Side, and The Son of Skew.

Alan Lacer (both available from the club library)

In *The Skew Chisel*, Alan first covers his technique for sharpening and maintaining an edge on a skew chisel along with some tips on selecting a skew. He then explains a trick using a dead center to slip mount the work piece. Once the tool is sharpened and the piece mounted he shows several different cuts including V-Cut, Rolling Beads, Parting Cut, Peeling Cut, Pommel Cuts, and numerous others and how they are done along with tips on avoiding catches and other artistic enhancements. He ends with a quick spin-top project. In *The Son of Skew*, Alan demonstrates several projects including Tool Handles, Spin-Tops, Eggs, Bottle Toppers, a Letter Opener, Door Stop, and more. All of the projects are done with a skew using the cuts learned from the first video. If you want to learn the skew chisel, these two videos would be a good place to start. The club has other videos on the skew. These are my favorites so far. Keep turning. – John Nikakis

OB's Shine Juice

I found this recipe on Eddie Castelin's web site (www.eddiecastelin.com). He credits it to O. B. Lacoste.

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces of plain, uncolored shellac.
- 3 ounces of Boiled Linseed Oil (do not boil plain linseed oil)
- 3 ounces of Denatured Alcohol (do not use any other alcohol product)

Add the three parts in a container and mix well. Do not over-agitate. For long-term storage, use a container with an airtight seal. Put a small amount in a small squeeze bottle for use. Note: The alcohol will evaporate from any open containers.

To use: With the lathe stopped, work in a good coat. Rub it in well, wait a minute, and repeat. With the lathe running at 500-1000 RPM, add some finish to a paper towel and apply it slowly to the surface. Keep the towel moving and the finish spreading. As the shellac adheres, the oil will begin to catalyze and the alcohol will evaporate. All three steps are necessary for a good finish. The coating will begin to build as you apply. At some point stop adding material and polish the surface. If it begins to attract the towel or gets gummy, stop and allow it to set for a minute. Start again when it sets up. – John Nikakis

Dates to Remember

The **Port Townsend School of Woodworking and Preservation Trades** is offering two 5-day (Foundations of Woodturning) and two 2-day (Beginning Woodturning) classes in 2014. Bonnie Klein is the instructor. The classes will be held in the school's facilities in Port Townsend, WA. The 2-day classes are offered May 3rd – 4th and September 13th – 14th. The 5-day classes are offered May 5th – 9th and September 8th – 12th. More details can be found on their [web site](#).

The **35th Annual Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held at the Utah Valley University campus UCCU Events Center on May 15th-17th, 2014. The theme will be "A Tribute to Dale Nish".

Demonstrators include Kip Christensen, Hans Weissflog, Jakob Weissflog, Art Majerus, Ray Key, Mike Mahoney, Steve Gray, Stuart Mortimer, Bonnie Klein, Kirk DeHeer, Bill Ooms, Nelson Cassinger, Al Stirt, David Ellsworth, Kurt Hertzog, Jerry Kermode, Glenn Lucas, Don Russell, Tom Sorenson, Keith Tompkins, Richard Raffan, Rex Burningham, Joe Wagner and many more. For more information, visit the Symposium web site at <http://www.utahwoodturning.com>.

The **AAW 28th International Symposium** will be held June 13th - 15th, 2014 in Phoenix, AZ. "Rising", the theme of the 2014 exhibit, is sponsored by the **Professional Outreach Program**. As always, you can interpret the theme literally or imaginatively ... the choice is yours. Work must be less than two years old and created at least in part on the lathe. No size limit, but only a few pieces that ship oversize can be accepted. As of July 2013, demonstrators are Alan Carter, Jimmy Clewes, J. Paul Fennell, Douglas F. Fisher, Ron Fleming, Clay Foster, Todd Hoyer, Rudy Lopez, Michael Mocho, Christof Nancey, Joshua Salesin, Neil Scobie, Hayley Smith, Michael Werner, and possibly more.

The **SouthWest Association of Turners (SWAT)** will hold their annual symposium in Waco, TX, on August 22nd - 24th, 2014 at the Waco Convention Center. Registration starts March 15th. The symposium will feature 54 rotations with 6 internationally recognized turners and 14 regional turners from the 27 chapters of the AAW comprising SWAT. The SWAT Symposium features an Instant Gallery, a Saturday night banquet with a raffle of more than 30 pieces, Sunday lunch and raffle with a full-size lathe, and more. There will be about 39 vendors, special interest groups, hands-on pen turning, tool sharpening area, and spouse activities. SWAT supports the Beads of Courage boxes program where attendees may submit boxes for distribution to regional hospitals. Lunches are provided for those attending the event. Visit **SWAT's web site** or contact **Wayne Furr** for more info and a list of demonstrators.

Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to Bill Draper via cwvnews@charter.net no later than Monday of the week before the next regularly scheduled meeting. The submission deadline for the May 2014 newsletter is April 28th.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW get-together will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday April 12th at 9:00 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.

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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