



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

This new presidential thing sure keeps a guy busy. There is a lot going on at the Western White House (Zuni Pines). It is probably more about getting slower on the draw with the cataracts and slowed reaction time, but it's all good.

We are the proud owners of a new (to us) 20 foot cargo container that Santa should deliver before Christmas. It is coming to us from Oakland by way of the North Pole. Thank you to John Drown, our Container Superintendent. Better to have a big title. That way you don't have to pay out any wages. John looked high and low and found just the right one. All we have to do is level a pad, put it in place, and install shelves and vents. Then we have to find some free wood, cut and seal it, dry and turn ... you get the idea. Anyway, this increases our storage capacity by 30% with a semi-controlled environment. A nice addition. We were able to stay in our price range around \$2,100.00 including shipping, taxes, and in place at Zuni. Two big pluses: If I get drummed out of the club, it can be moved to a new location, and we bought container in an as-is condition to cut down on cost (small leaks and lots of rust). When they went to pull it for shipping, the leaky ones were all gone, so they gave us a watertight container for the same price. A nice little extra holiday bonus.

We got three Birch trees cut down, sealed, and put away in our woodsheds. Thank you to Pete Robinson, John Ebel, John Drown, and Wayne Porter. The club has three new eye-in-the-sky safety advisers to help keep us safe at our hands-on: Wayne Ferree, Ron Burd, and John Nikakis. Hope they do as good a job as the people they are replacing. Hee-hee.

I want to thank Larry LeMahieu for the great job he is doing babysitting and keeping all the club turnings up to snuff at Gadzooks. Really helps with the cash flow.

Our November monthly meeting was held at Wayne Porter's shop, and we had 31 members and a guest in attendance. Graham Chase brought his grandfather to the meeting. It is always nice to have guests and show off our club. Looks like high attendance may be the new norm. That is two meetings in a row with 30-plus attending. The club now has 40 members, and we picked up two additional at the craft fair in Carson City. The club is always looking for new members and it makes you feel good. The club is growing and getting better. Growing and getting bigger is great but with that comes additional growing pains. If the club gets much bigger, we will outgrow our facilities creating new issues. We are going to look at this at our next board meeting. We will also have it on the agenda at our monthly meeting in January. Think about what direction you want your club to go. Stay about the size we are now, about 50 members, or bigger with new meeting and hands-on facilities. That means more expenses and work finding and upgrading the new home.

The election of board officers and members at large were held. All current members were re-elected: Dave Mills-President, Ron Burd-Vice President, Mel Swingrover-Treasurer, John Nikakis-Secretary, Wayne Porter-Member at Large, Dewayne Walker-Member at Large.

Turn Here for Safety
Always remove the tool rest before sanding, finishing, or polishing operations.



We were treated to a great demo by John (Nik) Nikakis on turning Christmas ornaments. He turned three different ornaments, and is really getting this demo thing down. Big thanks to Nik. The show-



and-tell was excellent and many turnings were donated for our craft show. I would go into detail, but that was two weeks ago and you know, the memory thing. I really want to thank the membership for stepping up again for all the turnings everybody donated for the show. Without you guys and gals we would not be the club we are. We are now having a break after the wood raffle if people want to purchase wood from the club. Guess what? We are selling more wood. Go figure.

Ron Burd had a large assortment of the great tools he makes on display for that special Christmas stocking stuffer. I bought an articulating stand for working on turnings. Boy, I hope Kathy likes it. Frank Miller had four of his handmade Miller-not-available-anywhere-else tools on display. He sold every one of them and donated the monies to the club. What can I say? THANK YOU!

The craft show was a big success - see Wayne Porters article below. Upcoming is the club Christmas party on December 13 at Frank and Jane Miller's home. The address and directions follow. It starts at 4 p.m. and will be lots of fun. Dirty Santa gift exchange. No gifts over \$15.00. Bill-the Grinch-Draper will be running the show. We have our auction where you can bid on members donated turnings with monies going to the club. In addition, the best food on the planet, lots of small talk, and a mystery guest playing his guitar and singing. No, Elvis is dead. Also down the road, on March 14 and 15, Jimmy Clewes will be here for an all-day demo on the 14th, and an all-day hands-on the 15th. The December hands-on will be held on the 6th at 9 a.m. at Zuni Pines (belly acres). The address 20599 State Route 88, Woodfords, CA. Phone is 530-694-2565. That's all folks. Make shavings not sawdust. - Dave Mills, President. [Photos by Paul Cote]

CVW 2014 Christmas Party



When: Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Frank and Jane Miller's Residence

[1564 High Pointe Court, Minden, NV](#)

Directions: Take Hwy 395 to Stephanie and drive east on Stephanie for 3.2 miles. Turn left (north) on Squires and drive 0.3 miles. Turn right (east) onto High Point Ct. 1564 is the second house on the left. There is parking up the gravel drive and to the right of the shop. There is some space at the top of the paved drive past the garage by the shed. There is limited parking in the street, but it is narrow with ditches to the sides.

RSVP to: Donna Dimmick with the number of persons in your party

775-246-0874, or email at ndimmick@sbcglobal.net

Donna may have called you to confirm the number in your party and what type of dish you plan on bringing. Do not worry about the basics, i.e. paper goods; they will be provided by the club. However, providing serving utensils for your dish would be helpful. Please BYOB, if desired, labeled with your name. The club will provide sodas, tea, etc.



Gift Exchange Rules: Each person who desires to participate must bring a gift, and put their gift in “the pile”. Gifts must be wrapped, but should not be labeled to identify a sender or recipient. Gifts should be inexpensive (~\$15), and should be considered “useful” and not “white elephants”. All participants will draw a number to determine their order. The participant holding #1 will select and unwrap any gift from the pile and then show it to everyone. Each successive participant, in the order determined from the drawing, can either "steal" an already opened gift, or be adventurous and choose a wrapped gift from the pile. If the participant chooses to steal, the person whose gift was stolen repeats their turn and either steals another person's gift (they cannot immediately steal back the gift that was just stolen from them) or unwraps a new gift. This cycle of stealing can continue, but will end after any one gift has been stolen three times. Since items can be stolen, the item in your possession is not yours until the game is over (a food item cannot be eaten until the game is over). The game will continue until the last gift has been opened.

Auction: We also will be auctioning off some of the items the club has received from demonstrators and individuals over the past year.



CHS Craft Fair Report

Well gang, we did it again. All our efforts paid off in a big way. I was so hoarse from promoting our wares that by the time I got home Saturday night I sounded like a base singer from the 50's. The ten hours of selling at the Carson High School Craft Fair went off without a hitch. The turnings the members donated were well received by the shoppers, and we sold quite a few of them. In addition to club sales, there were some commission sales racked up by Dave Mills and myself. When we add the club sales and the money from the commission sales, this was by far the best day and a half event the Club has ever had. We are still waiting for the numbers to come in on the credit card sales. Once all the expenses have been calculated, we will have a number for you, probably at the Christmas Party.



It seems like I am always saying thank you to our members for being there when help is needed, and I am doing it again right now; THANK YOU to each and every member and their spouses for all the help! We had enough turnings donated to fill up our 20 foot booth, and plenty of help setting up; selling; and tearing-down to make this the most organized operation we have had to date. I had three people tell me we had the best display in the whole show. With the member built display cabinets, the new shelving blocks, and the slightly revised booth organization, I don't think it could have been much better. We might revise the lighting to better highlight our turnings, but that was the only shortcoming I could detect.

The show organizers did a great job for their 20th show. I only heard two complaints. The weather was one (lots of wind and rain), and the other was the auto and human traffic jams. As far as the weather goes, I don't know what happened. I had ordered weather from the tropics, but it never got here. I should have paid for one-day “air” “fair”. The traffic jams were due to the large numbers of customers and I can't complain about that too much. I did, however, suggest they remove the vendor tables from the hallways leading to the large and small gyms, because that was one of the bottlenecks.

There is one thing I would like to say about the tear-down: gang, you were perfect! Dave's turnings went in one place, mine went into one box, and the turnings that go back to Gadzooks went in their boxes, (which have already been re-inventoried and returned to Gadzooks by Larry). The remaining items were nicely packed away and are waiting for the next show. "I don't have to sort through anything". You guys and gals have made me one happy camper. I may do this again next year. In fact, as soon as I get a check from our vacationing treasurer (Mel); I'll be sending in our request for the same booths for next year.

Our normal two shows per year did get stretched to three with the addition of the impromptu "no cost to us" one-day show at Markleeville, but that was just icing on the cake and didn't require too much extra effort from the members at large. Dave, Dewayne, Frank and Jane, Mel, Ron and Jeri, and I were able to handle most of that show. Well, the pressure is off for the remainder of the year, but don't tarp your lathes. Have some fun turning and remember - next year's shows aren't that far away.

See you all at the Christmas Party and we will celebrate another fantastic year for the Carson Valley Woodturners. – Wayne Porter {Photo by John Drown}

The Feather Touch Fluteless Gouge

By changing the grind of a scraper, you can change it into a fluteless gouge.



Top is 80 degrees. Bottom is 35 degrees. These are 1/2"x1/4" steel scrapers, top standard, bottom remade into gouge.

You can make your own and with better control than a flat scraper.

A feather touch gouge starts with a 1/4" diameter drill rod cut to around 8".



Grind two inches of the end of the rod flat to 1/8" thick. Two inches of flat provides for years of sharpening.

Round the end and increase the radius of the rod under the flat area.



Grind a 30 to 35 degree convex cutting edge to the rounded end of the flat area.



1/4" rod placed in handle and ground to shape.

Instead of starting with one-inch square blanks to support cutting long thin finials, they can be turned with



3/8" square stock with the feather touch fluteless gouge. The lower one is walnut, which usually does not make good small finials with fine detail. The harder fine grain wood on top allows for more detail. These spindles were both turned unsupported and are about three inches long.



Even softer fir can be turned to toothpick size with the lightest touch and no support.

To complete the fluteless gouge, you need to harden the shaped drill rod. First, hang a magnet from a thin wire, and heat at least 3" of the shaped end of the tool until it no longer attracts the magnet. This will be past cherry red. Do not overheat because this will destroy some of the carbon in the steel. Immediately quench the heated rod in oil and place in a 400 degree oven for a couple hours. Cool, buff clean, and sharpen the flat edge with a diamond hone. – Frank Miller

What's It Worth?

I recently had an email from a club member who asked me how I thought he should price his turnings. He was doing his first craft fair and was trying to figure out the big question. What are they worth?

In the world of retail it doesn't matter if you are selling blindfolds to nudists or matches to firemen, it's still selling. I was forced into selling kicking and screaming at the age of seventeen when I went to work for Standard Oil of California as a salesman trainee, starting pay \$1.69 an hour. I worked full time 40 hours a week on the graveyard shift and slept through my school classes during the day. My biggest fear growing up was having to get up in front of the class and speak or make a presentation. When I got the job with the oil company, I had to go to training school for a week in Reno, NV. It entailed everything from how to turn on the gas pump, clean toilets, and the five steps to success, which is how to wait on customers on the islands. First was the greeting, "Good morning, would you like to fill it up today?" Next was making the sale, Custom Supreme, Supreme, or Regular. The next step was under the hood service checking the oil, battery, and radiator. Anyway, five steps total all geared towards making the sale. It was always good morning, afternoon, etc., and an offer to fill the tank, not yeah whaddya want? When you checked the tires you did not ask, "Do you want me to check the tires?", you said, "Do you carry 28 lbs. in your tires?" The customer might say, "No, I carry 32". You say OK and before they know it, you are checking the tires looking for a bald one so you can point it out to the customer and maybe make a sale. It is amazing as I am writing this that I can remember this like it was yesterday. The point is the five steps to success were geared entirely to selling and getting the most out of the sale in a professional way, even pumping gas. The station environment was very competitive in those days with sales contests every month. They would have everyone's totals posted on the bulletin board. You sure didn't want to finish last and be on the bottom for everyone to see. I was 17 years old and weighed 125 lbs. Not a very imposing figure telling someone old enough to be my mom or dad they needed to buy a fan belt. As much as I hated it, it made me a salesman, and I was able to apply it throughout my career.

The first thing about selling your wares is if you don't believe in what you're selling, don't bother. Next, think about the end result. How much do you want to make? Some people think they are not going to give it away. They have the cost of the wood, the lathe, all the tools, and their time. If you are one of those types you won't be happy if you don't get top dollar. You probably will be kicking yourself for leaving that one extra dollar on the table you could have made. You probably will never sell a lot of merchandise but by golly, "I squeezed every last cent of profit out of that sale and nobody took advantage of me!" If you want to be successful check out the competition and price competitively. The next thing to look at is the quality of your work. This is the hardest. Is it on a par with the competition, better, or not as good? Tell the story about your turning; people love to read a description. Where did the wood come from and its characteristics, what makes this turning difficult or unusual. Be creative. The wood was rescued on its way to a landfill, not I found it at the dump. The natural voids in the wood are filled with silver inlay, not the cracks are filled with aluminum powder and glue. Be creative with your display. Don't have it too full and cluttered. Don't have it look like a flea market booth. Try to make it look full without it being cluttered. Move items around as you sell down items. Stretch it out to look full. If something is not getting interest move it to a spot where things are selling. Talk to the customer to get a conversation going. There is nothing worse than walking into a sales booth and the owner is reading a book or talking to another vendor ignoring the customer. **PUT THE PRICE IN OPEN SIGHT!** Don't make them have to pick up the piece or have to ask how much. That is confrontational to the customer. You want this to be fun for them, not stressful. Last but not least, complete the sale and get your money. Make payment easy as possible. Have money to make change. Have ability to take credit cards if possible, and advertise the fact you take credit cards. If you sell most of your merchandise, you can probably raise your prices and add to your bottom line at your next show. If your stuff does not sell, step back and try to figure out why or ask someone with expertise for some input. A little friendly advice from afar sometimes can go a long way.

I have bored you long enough. I hope this might give you some ideas on how to be a little more successful in the world of retail. If they don't work, blame me, blame it on global warming, or take responsibility and blame yourself. Happy selling! – Dave Mills

Dates to Remember

Be part of the first **Oregon Woodturning Symposium!** Interact with today's top demonstrators and up and coming woodturners in a friendly, informal learning environment with over 40 demonstrations to choose from and a full schedule of Special Events. Join us at the [Linn County Expo Center](#) in Albany, Oregon, March 6-8, 2015. There is something for all! Many nationally and regionally recognized turners will demonstrate a host of topics for all woodturners. There will be an Instant gallery, vendor area, banquet, and live auction. Demonstrators include but are not limited to Mike Mahoney, Jimmy Clewes, Trent Bosch, Kirk De Heer, Dale Larson, David Nittmann, Dave Schweitzer, Molly Winton, Eric Lofstrom, Nick Stagg, and Sara Robinson. Visit <http://www.oregonwoodturningsymposium.com> or contact Terry C. Gerros, gerrost@yahoo.com.

The **AAW 2015 Symposium** will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 25-28, 2015. Currently announced demonstrators include Mark Baker, Stuart Batty, Jerry Bennett, Michael Broly, Christian Burchard Nick Cook, David Ellsworth, Lyle Jamieson, Steve Kennard, Craig Kirks, Alain Mailland, JoHannes Michelson, Pascal Oudet, Joey Richardson, Avelino Samuel, and Mark St. Leger. Registration is not yet open. More information will follow when available. AAW's Symposium web site is [here](#).

The 19th annual **Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium** will be held on September 18-20, 2015 at the Larimer County Ranch, Loveland, CO. This three-day event has 49 rotations. Glen Lucas, David Ellsworth, Sam Angelo, Michael Roper, Doug Schneider and Vince Wilson are the current demonstrators with more to be announced soon. Join the fun and learn from some of the best demonstrators. More information can be found at www.rmwoodturningsymposium.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 January 2015 newsletter is December 29.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

There will not be a regular December meeting. Instead, we will hold our annual Christmas party, which was discussed previously in this newsletter.

Carson Valley Woodturners' Officers

President: Dave Mills – 530-694-2565

Vice President: Ron Burdg – 775-721-0253

Treasurer: Mel Swingrover – 775-783-3299

Secretary: John Nikakis – 775-265-3890

Member at Large: DeWayne Walker – 775-883-7518

Member at Large: Wayne Porter – 775-265-7887

www.carsonvalleywoodturners.com

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