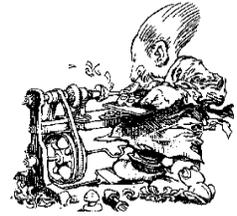




Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



President's Gouge

The last 48 hours seems like a blur. My airspeed is slowing down and I'm starting to lose altitude. Now entering earth's atmosphere. I can see the Sierra Nevada mountain range coming into view. There's the Carson Valley. I can see Highway 88. Bingo, there's the old golf course! Coming in for a soft landing at Zuni Pines. Touchdown, boy it sure is good to be home Auntie Em. It's 4:00 p.m. Just got Jimmy Clewes loaded in Wayne Porter's transport module to take him to Reno airport and home to Las Vegas. Did all this really happen? I have the dirty shop to prove it! Looks the best it ever has with wood shavings everywhere.

Turn Here for Safety

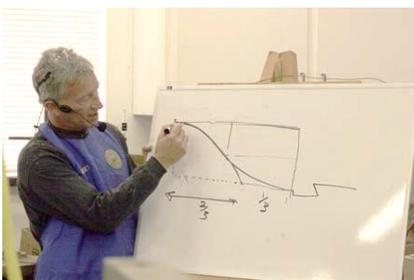
Check that all locking devices on the tailstock and tool rest assembly are tight before operating the lathe.

Carson Valley Woodturners just finished up two days with Jimmy Clewes, in my opinion, the best wood turner on the planet. Jimmy takes you where most woodturners have never gone before, into the unexplored and exciting land of supersonic turning. I think he is the best around in woodturning. I have had the pleasure of seeing many of the best turners: Elsworth, Raffin, Nish, Mahoney, etc. They are all really good but Jimmy is the complete package, self-taught with unbelievable turning skills. He keeps your attention the whole time with his dry English sense of humor and turning stories, just adds to the whole thing. You get the feeling he is there for you and nothing else matters.



I am a bicycle junkie. One of my favorite movies is a low budget affair called "Breaking Away" made in the 80's. It is about a couple of brothers that are bicycle racers. There is one scene where the two brothers are training, riding along, talking. All of a sudden, one says, "I feel the need for speed." He pops up the front wheel riding on the rear tire, his brother follows suit. Then they put the pedal to the metal racing each other. The camera shot changes to the rear derailleur and you see the chain going through the gears. Great stuff if you are a bicycle rider. To anyone else, boring rubbish. If you are a woodturner and attend a Jimmy Clewes demo or hands-on you will walk away feeling the NEED FOR SPEED.

Jimmy turns at warp speeds, faster than any turner I have had the pleasure of witnessing. He has the lathe spinning at speeds from 2200 to 3200 rpm. The first time he turned on the lathe you actually could see a lot of the members flinch and grab their seats. Our regular meetings usually run about three hours and a good number of the members leave before the demo is over for one reason or another: Irritable bowel syndrome, better things to do, bored, you get the idea. That does not happen when Sir James Clewes is performing his art. Jimmy had us hanging on his every word begging for more. Watching him turn is truly an art form. I know, you think I am going on and on, after all he is just a woodturner. Hey, if you weren't there, ask a member that witnessed it, see what they tell you. At the last meeting one of our long time members came up to me and said, "Can't we shorten up the demos? They are running too long and are sometimes boring". I told him



we try to limit them to 1 ½ hours. If we made them any shorter, I doubt the members would learn anything. Guess who was still there at 4:00 p.m.? I jokingly said to him, what are you still doing here? Oh yeah, Sir Jimmy is in the house.

Wayne Ferree is our self-appointed safety expert, at least in his own mind. He is always pointing out unsafe things to look for. He makes some good points, but it is also a good time to take a restroom break or get your cell phone from your car while he drones on about safety stuff. Saturday, Wayne was sitting in the front row, directly in the line of fire. Only thing between him and impending disaster was the Plexiglas safety shield. I looked over at him and he was sitting on the edge of his chair with a grin from ear to ear. Reminded me of a kid taking his first ride on a roller coaster. Scared to death, but he wouldn't miss it for the world.

One of my friends in the club emailed me. Said he and another member saved twenty bucks by not attending the meeting. He figured he could go out to breakfast three times on that twenty bucks. Really? I would give up 10 breakfasts and maybe throw in a dinner or two to see Jimmy, but that's just me. A lot of people new to woodturning start out coming to hands-on or come by the shop for one-on-one mentoring. They get comfortable turning bowls doing rudimentary stuff and then I don't see them as much. It's like, been there done that. I learn something every time I hold a hands-on from the other members. Some of the best time I have spent is hanging out with Wayne Porter in the shop trying stuff we have never done, or trying to perfect and improve an old technique.



Jimmy was able to complete three really nice projects. A lidded box with exotic insert and brass ring, A Scorched and textured Ash bowl with colored lid. And an Ash platter with a dyed rim and gold gilding. Amazing feat to complete all three items and cover all the subjects he goes over during the demo. They will be on display at the next meeting for everyone to see. Jimmy donated them to the club so we can raffle/auction them off later in the year.

Day Two was the hands-on with eight lucky attendees and Jimmy. Wayne and I were on hand to assist and get in the way. Ricky and Lucy were as usual in charge of the distraction department, wanting to go in and out all day long, nothing different there. The group was able to get two projects 80% completed to be taken home and finished. Wait until you see their turnings! Not a bad piece among them. And the best part, they are going to donate it all to the club to sell at our craft shows. (Hee hee) Truthfully, I don't think that is going to happen. In the words of Charlton Heston, "You will have to pry them out of their cold dead hands." They are pretty darn proud and they should be. Beautiful stuff!

Larry LeMahieu made the comment, "This is the best money I have ever spent signing up for the hands-on." John Drown agreed saying he never dreamed he would learn as much as he did. The only other good decision John has made lately is finding the new girlfriend on Craig's list! Only two injuries that drew blood, minor stuff. Band-aids did the trick. I thought we were going to have a nonrelated lathe injury to Wayne Porter. Wayne was helping/hurting Ralph Wycoff showing him a better way to use a parting tool, I believe. Next thing I see this piece of destroyed wood flying across the shop. No, Ralph was not using the tool, Wayne the so-called helper was the culprit. Some people would have got all upset, not Ralph. I tried to help the tension of the situation by showing Ralph the gun cabinet and which shotgun had the rock salt in it (just kidding). Anyway, he and Wayne mounted a new piece and caught back up in no time. The

two projects for the day were an Oriental box with matching lid and handle out of Box Elder, and an Ash bowl with a dyed lid out of figured Maple with a handle. Wait until you see these dye jobs folks. All are very beautiful.

Two of the participants are writing articles for this newsletter. I am looking forward to those from their perspective instead of me droning on. I spent three hours writing this last night, then I mistakenly hit the delete button. I was so tired I didn't even care. I wrote it for a second time this morning and was getting some particulars from Wayne on the phone. Then while I am talking about the weekend, how great it was, blah, blah, I did it again! This time I am doing it in Microsoft Word like everybody has been telling me to do so I don't lose it into lost-forever-land. DUH!!

I need to thank Wayne Porter for all the work he put in coordinating Jimmy's visit, picking him up, and delivering back to the airport, and to his lady Maggie for putting Jimmy up. Wayne also took care of ordering all the wood and supplies for the demo. He also ordered the T-shirts and smocks the members wanted. He worked his fanny off. Have any of you seen his fanny? That's for an article to be written later.

In case you missed the meeting, Wayne Porter's new title on the board is Director, more work less pay. Works for me. John Drown has taken over the Member at Large seat that was held by Dewayne Walker for the remainder of his term. Thank you John Drown.

The April meeting will be held at Wayne Porter's shop on the 11th at 9:00 a.m. Gary Raines, our newest member, will be doing a demo on hollowing. Should be interesting because we have been wanting someone to do a hollowing demo.

That's all folks, make shavings not sawdust. – Dave Mills, President [Photos by Paul Cote]

Jimmy Clewes Weekend. Wow!

A few words about a great weekend!! On the past Saturday, as everybody knows, our club hosted a great woodturner by the name of Jimmy Clewes. He did a great demo, answering all types of questions and showing the large crowd attending some of the great joys of woodturning. I must admit that at the speed of the lathe, I was sure one of Wayne's windows behind Jimmy was sure to go!! But Jimmy proved a competent turner and all survived.

On Sunday, eight lucky club members got to work with Jimmy out at Dave's shop HANDS-ON! By that I mean Jimmy helped each and every one with making an oriental box. We also received superb help from Wayne and Dave. This was a great experience and in my opinion, some of the best money I have ever spent. Jimmy somehow found the time to personally help each one of us with either the woodturning or explaining how to sharpen the tools and sharpening them! As a new member with the club, I must admit I was a bit intimidated. I wondered if my tools were good enough. Would I embarrass myself and others with my limited knowledge? Would my project "catch" and injure somebody? The answer to all these came easily within just a few minutes of watching and listening. I have found that a Benjamin Best tool can cut just as good as a much more expensive one (only it has to be sharpened more often!) Jimmy has a bit of English humor. (I told him it was English blarney, lol.) We all left Dave's shop Sunday evening with two projects under our belt and with great satisfaction of having been in attendance with a true professional.



For other new or old members who have not been fortunate to take a class with Jimmy, please consider it.

In closing, I wish to thank Dave and Wayne for all their assistance in making the past weekend an enjoyable and enriching one. – Jerry Johnson [Photo by Paul Cote]

Jimmy Clewes Hands-On

After the great demo at the regular Carson Valley Woodturners meeting on Saturday, March 14, Jimmy Clewes held a hands-on class hosted by Dave Mills at his shop at Zuni Pines (Belly Acres). The members attending the hands-on were John Drown, Jerry Johnson, Larry LeMahieu, Gary Muma, John Nikakis, Denise Paley, Joan Wilder, and Ralph Wycoff.

The two projects that Jimmy had picked for the class were a Square Oriental Box from Box Elder, and a Maple bowl with a dyed lid. By the end of the day, each of the turners had two great projects turned and ready for the final sanding and finishing, and a new set of turning skills they didn't know they had.

During the demo, Jimmy would demonstrate how to do part of the project, and then had everyone go to their lathes and do that part of the project. Then he would demo the next part of the project until they were done. Dave Mills and Wayne Porter wandered around the shop and were a great help all day. They gave everyone tips and pointers, which helped to improve the techniques of all the turners in the class.

In addition to the wood projects, Jimmy also demonstrated tool sharpening and use techniques. He explained the reasons why he likes to sharpen and use the tools the way he does for more efficient cutting.
– Larry LeMahieu [Photo by Paul Cote]



Early Risers – March Hands-On Report

Everyone knows the hands-on sessions start at 9:00 a.m., right? I showed up early at Zuni Pines (7:45 a.m.), to set out the Carson Valley Woodturners sign and to help Dave with any last minute preparations. There were already three cars parked at Dave's shop. I don't know if it's Dave's Zuni Blend coffee they were after, or if they just forgot how to count sheep.

The hands-on this month was another fun affair. We gave Dave's band saw another workout slicing into some Poplar burl, and cutting up a few bowl blanks. Dave should spend his days off (if he ever gets one) sharpening the teeth on that saw blade. Actually it wasn't bad considering the workout the club gives it.

Attendance was a little less this month. I think many members were at home playing with what they learned the week before at the Jimmy Clewes demo and class. Even so, we had 12 or 14 coffee and donut consumers on hand, as well as the usual dog trio: Ricky, Lucy, and Rusty. Note: When the donut-rustling trio is in the neighborhood, donuts are not to be held at your side. John Drown can attest to that. There were five lathes spinning, turning out bowls, a platter, practicing spindle work, etc.

John Drown, Dave, and I looked at the site where we are going to build the next wood storage structure. Does it ever end? I broke ground on the job by kicking my toe into the dirt, and then we moved on to the next project, installing vents in the last cargo container we purchased for wood storage. Dave has this "President" thing down pretty well. He somehow managed to get John to volunteer to cut holes in the container for the vents while Dave and I went back up to the shop for coffee and donuts. We felt somewhat sorry for John so we each had an extra donut.

Mel had given me the checkbook prior to the Jimmy Clewes weekend, and I made good use of it to pay for the Craft Supply order, smock embroidering, T-shirts, Jimmy, and a few other odds and ends. I gave Mel back a few checks and a bag full of receipts. He should have that sorted out by the end of the year. Boy, am I glad he took that Treasurer job away from me. He is my friend for life, but right about now, I doubt he feels the same way about me.

It was another great hands-on day with the wood shavings and fish stories coming out about even. See you all there next time. – Wayne Porter

Cutting Segmented Pieces of Wood

We have several new turners in our club, and eventually most will want to try turning segmented pieces, be it a bowl, pepper mill, or another useful or ornamental item. The strips of wood from which the individual pieces are cut can be ripped on a number of saw types, but the most common method is on a table saw. With the proper set-up (using a Zero Clearance table insert and preparing the wood by planeing it to a uniform thickness and joining one edge) you can fabricate an unlimited number of strips, or group of strips, which are all the same dimension. The difference between a beautifully turned segmented item and a sloppy piece (firewood) is the care and precision with which the segments are cut.

We also have several great segmented turners in our club, but the “Master Craftsman” is Wayne Allen. He has produced many beautiful items. Today, my focus is to tell you how to safely rip and crosscut segmented pieces on a table saw. Next to the lathe, the most dangerous piece of equipment in our shops, if not used properly, is the table saw. Except for a few special situations, all of the “cut-offs” should be made on the outside side of the blade (the side opposite of the parallel fence). **Never** rip cut with the widest section of the wood on the outside of the blade and the narrower part between the blade and fence. Even though you may have seen one or more professional turners do so, this is an extremely dangerous procedure. The trap lies in the ease with which it appears that you can set the thin dimension between the blade and fence only once and then make multiple cuts of the same dimension without changing the set-up. The hazard lies in the probability of the narrow strip of wood becoming pinched and a dangerous kick-back ensuing.

At first glance, cutting on the outside of the blade seems counter-intuitive because of the built-in-error if you measure and reset the fence for each cut. However, if you clamp a stop near the front of the table and on the side opposite of the fence, for the desired dimension between the blade and the block, repetitive rip cuts of the same dimension are easily, quickly, and safely made. There are several very inexpensive devices available in the various catalogs that fit in the outside miter groove and act as a stop block, or you can use a block and clamp.

The use of a zero clearance table insert requires the removal of the saw’s splitter-anti-kick-back device. To prevent compression of the wood against the back of the blade, I use an MJ (polycarbonate) splitter at the end of the insert. It is an inexpensive device that may be purchased on the internet from Hartville Tool. With this setup, even thin veneer strips, or thin strips for highlighting the rings of your turning can be safely cut.

As you rip and move the milled board towards the stop, it will eventually become too narrow to safely run against the fence. My personal limit is 1.0 inch. This remnant then becomes scrap unless you hot glue it to a wider board, or can dress it with another piece of shop equipment.

When crosscutting the individual pieces on a table saw, use a sled (jig) or a miter gauge. If you use a miter gauge, it should be mounted in the opposite miter slot from the fence. The length of each piece to be cut can be set by using a stop block at the front and on the fence side of the table. **Never** use the fence as a guide when using a miter gauge. The wood will be pinched and a violent kick back will occur.

For those of you who wish to try segmented turning and do not have the equipment required to mill the wood in preparation for ripping the strips, you are most welcome to use my shop. – Wayne Ferree

Mirka Recalls Compact Electric Random Orbit Sanders Due to Fire Hazard

This recall involves 5-inch (model CEROS550) and 6-inch Mirka (CEROS650) compact electric random orbital sanders. The sanders are yellow and black with Mirka logo on the front. A speed control lever is

on the top of the sanders and a vacuum hose connector on the rear. The recalled sanders came with either a cardboard box or a plastic carrying case, a 12-foot power cord, a wrench, a multi-hole backup pad, and assorted abrasives. Visit the Consumer [Product Safety Commission web site](#) for more information.

Dates to Remember

The **36th Annual Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held May 14-16, 2015 at Utah Valley University in Orem, UT. There will be offerings for all turners from beginner to advanced. There will be approximately 90 demonstrations conducted by over 22 turners. Currently, demonstrators include Sam Angelo, Sally Ault, Mark Baker, Michael Blankenship, Jason Breach, Jay Brown, Rex Burningham, Kip Christensen, Cindy Drozda, Ashley, Harwood, Kurt Hertzog, Mike Jackofsky, Art Liestman, Eric Lofstrom, Guilio Marcolongo, Art Majerus, Cindy Navarro, Stan Record, Jim Rodgers, Jason Schneider, Alan Trout, and Neil Turner. The early registration deadline is May 8. For more information, visit their web site at www.utahwoodturning.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 Brolly, 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. 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 May 2015 newsletter is April 27.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, April 11 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 club meetings in his shop.

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