



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



May 2016



## President's Gouge – Records are Made to be Broken

We had 43 hungry turners and wanna-be turners show at our monthly meeting. Forty members and three guests were on hand to set another new record for most ever to attend a monthly meeting. We welcomed our newest member Skip Hansen from Reno. It is amazing how many members we have picked up from the Reno area. Just goes to show, when you have one of the best clubs around, they will come. One of our guests came all the way from Alaska, this being his second visit to one of our meetings. Boy if he joins the club he is going to pick up some serious air miles.

### Turn Here for Safety

Do not overreach, keep proper footing, and keep your balance at all times.

I have gotten into the habit of writing this gouge ASAP after our meetings because of the CRS factor. Then I will reread and tinker with it until it goes to press. Some of my best ideas for articles come when I am in the saddle on my two-wheeled machine (bicycle), White Lightning. I ride up and around Monitor and Ebbetts passes. With very few vehicles or distractions, you can really zone out and brainstorm. I logged 3200 miles last year on my bike, riding that much you can think up some really weird stuff, some good, some only recycle bin worthy. In addition, I get some pretty good turning ideas every once in a while. It helps to have an English sick sense of humor for articles. I know, this has been written about before. All right, back to the meeting.

The club has been very busy in the wood gathering department recently. You can read all about it later in this newsletter.

Club business discussed at the meeting consisted of the date and details of the auction of John Robinson's woodworking equipment. By the time this newsletter goes to print it will have taken place. Hoping we will have a positive follow-up report. Annette Anderson gave her treasurer's report. The state of the club's checking account? We are doing just fine. Annette is now also taking care of the club turnings we are selling at the Carson Chamber of Commerce. She reported they sold three of our turnings for the month of March. Thank you to Annette for stepping up and taking on additional club commitments.

The long awaited visit of woodturning guru Cindy Drozda is right around the bend on May 14- 15- 16. Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> she will be doing an all-day demo showing us her magic. Cindy's specialties include intricate boxes and finials, embellishing turnings with dyes, to mention just a few. Cindy will be doing finials and a finial star bowl for us on Saturday. Plan on bringing a lunch, the club will furnish beverages. Cost of the demo is \$20.00. Sunday and Monday will be all day hands-on sessions at Zuni Pines. Twelve lucky turners are signed up and the classes are full. Looking forward to some nice turnings at the next show-and-tell after the classes.

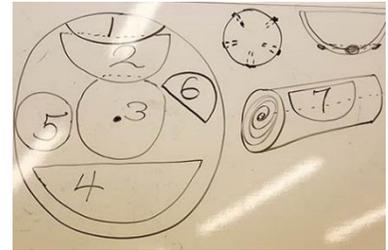
My term as president will expire at the end of 2016. That will be just short of 2 ½ years as president. Long enough. Just like when relatives visit if they stay too long they start to smell like fish. I will still host the hands-on, and take care of the wood department at Zuni Pines. If anybody needs



help with turning, I will always be available. We have a great club and membership and I know the right someone will step up and take over the reins. If you are considering running and have questions about what the privileges of running the club entail, I am a phone call away. What I am looking forward to are the people who will be buying my vote, which is for sale to the highest bidder. It is politics, you know.



Wayne Porter pulled it off again with a bang-up demo on turning tea lights out of limb wood. I might steal his design shapes, always easier to do than actually creating your own ideas. He covered it all starting from a cut log to a finished tea light. The second part of his demo showed what kind of grain patterns you can achieve from different parts of a log. The members really enjoyed that, many positive comments. Thanks to Wayne for an excellent demo.



Dale Pappas donated a dozen gorgeous large ceramic coffee cups with the CVW logo on the front. I don't know the correct



words to describe what the process is. I just know he makes and sells all kinds of this beautiful art that he fires in his kiln. It is oven, microwave, and dishwasher safe. Dale sells them for \$40.00 on up. The club is selling Dales donations for twenty-five buckaroos. We sold two already, they will go really fast, with the proceeds going to the club. Thank you Dale, what a nice thing to do for

the club. Best club and members on planet earth!

The wood raffle and wood sales were brisk to say the least. People were buying up the Olive and Honey Locust like it was ammunition and the government was threatening to ban it. Before the meeting started I was worried we had too much for sale and I would be hauling a bunch back to Belly Acres. By 8:30 a.m. we were running out, and we had to pull our stash out of the back room just to refill the table.

Frank Miller has started making his now famous turning tools ahead of time for our hands-on and monthly meetings rather than by request at our hands-on. Frank has created a monster. We used to sell four or five at a hands-on maybe, now we sell all that Frank can make. Today by my count, we sold 36, amazing.

Show-and-tell broke another record. We had turnings from 15 members! In addition, the stuff was beautiful, sliver for sliver the best I have ever witnessed as a member of this club. I was actually in awe standing



back and taking it all in. We had the usual great stuff from the old hands, but what got me were the turnings from our new-to-turning members. The likes of Patti Pastrel, Annette Anderson, Ralph Wycoff, Jeannette Cleaves, Mac McCracken, Larry LeMahieu, and Dave Edwards. With that many turners you would think show-and-tell would take forever. Not so with the new enforcement rules I put in place to speed up the process. My new double barrel side-by-side 12 gauge scatter gun I borrowed from over the door of Wayne's shop along with Steve MacLean's I-Pad with a 5 minute timer did the trick. Not one abuser of the five-minute rule, even Bob (the lip) Wieland complied. Amazing what a little encouragement and the sound of setting the hammers can accomplish. Trying to do justice and breeze right along, here is





a rundown of the fastest 5 minutes in wood turning describing everyone's work. Wayne Porter, multiple tea lights out of Aspen, Birch, and Mission Olive. Very pretty spalted Maple vase, natural edge Walnut dish, and Maple box with black finial. Ralph Wycoff, beautiful segmented bowl out of Bloodwood with a Birds Eye Maple and Wenge insert in the bottom. Ken Crosby, red stained Cherry dish. Wayne Allen doing his usual magic, M&M bottle with finial out of laminated plywood, Quilted



Cottonwood vase with laminated finial, Beaded vase with black finial, and a really cool large Sea Urchin ornament with V-shaped finial. Larry LeMahieu, Palm bowl with green dyed rim, and Palm pendant with blue dye. Steve MacLean, Maple burl stands with Sheoak finials dyed black, beautiful Maple hollow form on a pedestal with high gloss Maple finial, Blue Pine lidded cookie jar with lid and finial out of Doug Fir, and Bastogne Walnut hollow form with black finial. Bob Wieland and Steve, lighted candlestick out of mystery wood with Holly base. Bob Wieland five real nice black finials out of Sheoak with Pine display stands. Maple hollow form with Pearl inlaid mounted on a pedestal with black finial. His best turning to date in my humble opinion. Annette Anderson, her first finials ever out of Osage Orange wood given to her by Frank Miller, and Walnut box with Osage Orange finial. Patty Pastrel, two nice Walnut boxes, her finish was excellent, and an English walnut bowl. Patty's best work to date. Jeanette Cleaves, Walnut box with black finial, and Sheoak display block with finial. Mac McCracken, his best turning to date, spalted Aspen bowl, and maple finial. Dave Edwards, three five-sided boxes out of spalted Maple with finials, and a really nice laminated rolling pin on display stand. Richard Thomas, three ornaments out of Yellow Heart, pallet wood, Ebony, Bloodwood and Maple. Wayne Ferree, lidded vase out of Linden, Maple, and Ipe wood. Last but not least, Ron Burdg, Ambrosia Maple box with Maple finial dyed black.



Rounding out the day was our new-to-the-club woodturner's challenge. The challenge this month was who could turn the best finial. The judge and supreme picker was Ken Crosby. He narrowed it down to three finials. Steve MacLean ended up with two in the final three. I think money might have changed hands. The other finalist, Annette Anderson, had the first finial she had ever turned. So it was down to the veteran against the rookie. After the membership voted, Steve won the grand prize a \$10.00 gift certificate from Craft Supply. When the wood turners challenge idea was brought up, I didn't think it would amount to much. Well, it was a big hit. The number of finials entered and the quality was excellent. I was wrong again, no surprise. Looks like we have a keeper here. The challenge next month is lidded boxes. You had better get to work. You have two months to create your entries as May's meeting is all Cindy Drozda. No show-and-tell or wood raffle.



The meeting ended just before noon. Thanks as usual to members who helped with cleanup and such. That's all folks. Make shavings not sawdust. – Dave Mills, President [Photos by Paul Cote]

**Oroville Road Trip and Wood Sealing Party**

It's 7:00 a.m. at Wayne Porter's shop; two pickups with trailers, six willing and unwilling worker bee/slaves in attendance. No one in handcuffs, you must be semi-willing to do this. Denise is not even in pajamas, not a hair out of place, probably pulled an all-nighter, just so she did not have to get up early. Guess she never had to get up early to feed the chickens when she was growing up.

We spent 3 ½ hours driving to Oroville with one stop for bladder control issues and a little woodcutter's health food at McDonald's. You forget how green it is this time of year in the California valley. The cutting area is an old Olive orchard on 116 acres. The trees have been limbed and are still standing. The trees are some of the biggest Olive I have come across; this is a rare find. Best part, lots of room to maneuver between trees, easy cutting. Two saws cutting, one guy keeping saws sharp, three loading our newfound bonanza.

Three hours later we are hot and sweaty and have two trailers full of woodturner's gold. Denise's hair doesn't look so good, but, other than that, we are all good to head home. I told Wayne and his crew to take the lead, advising him we have to make a couple of pit stops. Last I heard Denise is saying she wants to stop in Truckee to get a shampoo and set. Richard Thomas is riding shotgun in the armored presidential pickup. With all the weight of the armor plate, we have to make a gas stop just to make it home. This wood is heavy stuff. One more stop at a local fruit stand. We score some local almonds and dried apricots, and arrive back at Wayne's at 4:45 p.m.; a good day's work.



Nine bells, it is day two and the real fun begins. Fifteen members showed up in their best sealing attire; best-dressed winner is Mel Swingrover. Two trailers to cut, seal, and stack, Oh wait, here comes Larry LeMahieu with another trailer and the back of his suburban full of Honey Locust. Don't know how we did it but we got it all cut, sealed, and stacked nice and neat in the woodsheds.



My Kathy made up some cholesterol treats out of peanut butter, honey, along with bacon sandwiches on whole grain bread. Lots of workers comments before tasting the sandwiches. Heard one member say he hoped his heart doctor didn't drop by. They hit the spot for me. There was one left until the ranch thief Ricky got up on his hind legs and snatched it right off the plate. It fell to the ground and split in two pieces, one for Lucy and one for her partner in crime.



The funfest broke up about 3:00 p.m. Two days of backbreaking work by the members, and job well done. I want to thank Dave Rich for donating his trailer and Ralph from Woodworking Source for the great deal on wood sealer. Now if he will give the club some additional gift certificates so we can promote his business...

In closing, I just want to thank again all 22 members that donated their time and backbreaking labor. It is the members that make this club what it is, a truly GREAT one!

I also wanted to announce we have a new Jimmy Olsen (cub reporter) here at the Daily Planet. Jerry Johnson is going to be taking over writing some of the articles for our newsletter. This is really a welcome addition to the editorial staff, takes some of the burden off the old lame duck president. I wonder if he knows what it pays. Thank you Jerry. You are a champ. That's all folks. – Dave Mills [Photos by Paul Cote]

## June Woodturning Challenge

Our club's challenge for June is a lidded box. I thought it would be interesting to find out a few things: The first is how many different designs there are, and that is up to the woodturner's imagination! I googled

this and found page after page of examples. Several good examples are at <http://www.craftsy.com/blog/2015/07/turning-a-lidded-box/>. Then I decided to find out which was the most popular, which of course was the 2 or 4 inch simple box, perhaps with a set of rings burned into the upper-most part of the actual box. The most interesting one so far was the turned 3-sided box and you can find it at [www.thamesvalleywoodturners.com/docs/3-SidedBoxTurning.pdf](http://www.thamesvalleywoodturners.com/docs/3-SidedBoxTurning.pdf). I would think that it would be for advanced woodturners, but if you have experience in turning on multiple axes, then of course go for it.

Perhaps if our club members know a few people who sew, a thimble box might be a decent seller at a craft show. Just thought I would share a few thoughts and good luck to all in the Challenge! – Jerry Johnson

## Principles of Design for Woodturning - Proportion and Balance

Proportion is the relationship of two or more elements and how they blend with each other. When a correct relationship exists between the elements with respect to size or quantity the proportion is deemed to be harmonious.

In art and photography, we often hear of the rule of thirds and the golden ratio (1.618 to 1), along with some other proportional guides like the golden section and the golden spiral. These proportional guides can be applied to most woodturning projects, especially the rule of thirds and the golden ratio. They can be used for determining transition points on a bowl or platter, setting the design points of a finial, laying out a table leg, and so on.

To use the rule of thirds, divide the piece or element by three, and use those points to start transitions or create beads, coves, burn lines or what have you. Using the golden ratio takes a little more work. You need to get out the calculator and calculate the point, or use Golden Mean Calipers (sometimes called a Fibonacci gauge). These calipers will give you one point that you can use the same as the points from the rule of thirds. There are several sources online to buy or make these calipers.



Balance places the elements in an aesthetically pleasing arrangement.

Formal balance exists when both sides are symmetrical in terms of arrangement, like a calabash style bowl. Informal balance is when sides are not exactly symmetrical, but the whole is still balanced, like some natural edge bowls.

Most woodturning is done on a single axis so the horizontal formal balance is inherent; but the proportional balance must be considered in your design. If an element of a piece is too large or too small, the piece may seem unstable, bulky, overly fragile, or it may just look wrong. Think of proportion and balance as a single principle of design and you can routinely create visually attractive turnings. – Nik Nikakis

## Tool Auction Report 1

Once again, our club showed what they were made of...sadly, we held another auction for the widow of a valued club member.

We started the day off with a hearty breakfast in Carson City where we discussed club business and fueled up for what we knew would be a long and busy day. Caravanning to Dayton with full bellies and hopeful hearts, we were all geared-up and ready to go to work. Dave and Wayne had done great job preparing for the auction days before and all that was needed was to move things around and get ready for the auction.

We had more than a dozen members, spouses, and a few of the neighbors in attendance and we were able to auction off a man's treasures and a wife's burdens. We did our best, had deals of the century, and looked deep into our hearts and even deeper into our wallets. I am proud of what we did, as we were able to give

Ginny a fist full of cash, checks, and a clean garage and workshop. Amazing job, my woodturning friends. We are truly a club to be reckoned with... – Annette Anderson

## Tool Auction Report 2

As Annette has written (and I totally agree), the auction came off without a hitch. Mother Nature cleared up the weather and turned the sky blue in honor of John. I do not think I ever met the man, but I did have a chance to meet and talk with his wonderful wife, Ginny, such a graceful lady.

I wanted to thank the members that came, and of course a great big thank you for the auctioneer. He worked his rear end off trying to make as much money as possible for Ginny, and yep, he accomplished the goal. We were very lucky that we had two uninvited bidders show up. One was the next door neighbor and a friend of John's, and the other was a nice couple that had moved to Dayton from Longview, Washington, and the wife went nuts buying stuff! She and her husband both bought items that they had no idea what they were, and we were glad to have them donate quite a bit of their money!

There was a lot of humor at times and thank God, Wayne and Dave showed a lot of class by smiling and laughing along with the rest of us. By the way, on a serious note, if any club members need a router or two or router bits, a really good Coleman Ice Chest, or a nice Husky tile cutter, contact Jerry at [Schnazer-dude2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Schnazer-dude2000@yahoo.com). You might also get a great deal on oil from Dave! As you can guess, some members bought items that we really did not need but wanted to help. I know Wayne, Dave, and Terry also bought items with the idea just to help. A BIG thanks to Annette, Donna, and Shelley (my wife) for keeping notes on who bought what and how much; that was very difficult at times.

For those who missed what we hope will be the FINAL AUCTION FOR MANY YEARS (and probably Dave's final one), you missed a great one. Sad at times, yes, but I hope John was looking down and laughing also, although he probably was upset because tools went for PENNIES ON THE DOLLAR! Remember the saying, "I hope the wife doesn't sell my stuff for what I told her it cost!" In closing, may God bless America and God bless Carson Valley Woodturners. – Jerry Johnson

## DVD Review

*The Skew Chisel, the Dark Side, the Sweet Side, and The Son of Skew*, by Alan Lacer.

In *the Skew Chisel*, Alan shows how to ease the anxiety and frustration some people have when using the skew chisel. In the video, he covers his technique for sharpening and maintaining an edge on a skew chisel along with tips on selecting a skew. He shows how to modify and use a dead cup drive center to allow for slip if you get a catch.

Once the tool is sharpened and the wood mounted he shows several different cuts including the 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. This video includes exercises for continued practice. 90 Minutes.



In *the Son of Skew*, the sequel to *the Skew Chisel*, Alan presents 11 projects that include, Tool Handle, Wine Stopper, Letter Opener, Egg, Lace Bobbin, Honey Dipper, Fishing Lure, Door Stop, Duck Call, three types of Tops and more. All of the projects are done with a skew using the cuts learned from the first video. Turning a furniture leg is shown along with how to make duplicate spindles. 2 hours.

Alan Lacer, [www.alanlacer.com](http://www.alanlacer.com), has been an active woodturner for well over 25 years and is a past president of the AAW. I highly recommend these videos to anyone wanting to learn how to use the skew chisel or to refresh your skew technique. These DVDs are numbers 45 and 46 in the Club Library. – Nik Nikakis

## Dates to Remember

The **2016 Utah Woodturning Symposium** will be held at the UCCU Events Center in Orem, UT, on May 12-14, 2016. Demonstrators currently include Richard Raffan, Rex Burningham, Kip Christensen, Kirk DeHeer, Michael Hosaluk, Jimmy Clewes, Michael Mocho, Carmen DeLaPaz, Lane Phillips, Linda Ferber, Mike Mahoney, Pat & Karen Miller, Vernon Liebrant, Megan Williams, John Beaver, Chris Pytlik, Janice Levi, Sarah Robinson, Avelino Samuel, Doug Schnider and Pat Johnson, among others! More information including registration can be found on their [web site](#).

The **AAW 30th Annual International Symposium** will be held in the downtown Atlanta Convention Center at AmericasMart on Thursday, June 9 through Sunday, June 12, 2016. The preliminary list of demonstrators includes Sally Ault, US, Benoit Averly, France, Jason Breach, UK, Seamus Cassidy, Ireland, Robin Costelle, US, Jean Francois Escoulen, France, Richard, Findley, UK, Liam Flynn, Ireland, Cynthia Carden Gibson, US, Michael Hosaluk, Canada, Beth Ireland, US, John Jordan, US, Dale Larson, US, David, Marks, US, Yann Marot, France, Philip Moulthrop, US, Binh Pho, US, Jason Schneider, US, Mark Sfirri, US, and Curt Theobald, US. More information to follow. Go to the AAW International Symposium web site [here](#).

The **2016 Woodturners of Olympia Symposium** will feature Michael Hosaluk and local turner Bob Espen. The symposium will be on Saturday, July 23. There will be workshops following the symposium (July 24 through 27). Visit the [WoO web site](#) for more information.

## 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 May 2016 newsletter is May 30.

## CVW Meeting Location and Directions

This month's CVW meeting and all-day Cindy Drozda demo will convene in Wayne Porter's shop on Saturday, May 14, at 9:00 a.m. The address is 759 Gansburg Court, just off Highway 88 in Carson Valley. If you end up in California, you went too far. We all appreciate Wayne's continued willingness to hold club events in his shop.

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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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