



Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



August 2017
Volume 10, Issue 3



Detail Gouge

Put on your feedbag and get ready for the club's summer party. August 12 at Aspen Park, 1380 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville. Festivities start at 10 a.m. and will continue until 1 or 2 p.m. There will be a Show & Tell table and a member's auction, so bring your latest project and your checkbook. The summer party will take the place of the August meeting.

Turn Here for Safety

Never leave the lathe running unattended. Keep the lathe unplugged when not in use and before making adjustments.

Rudy Lopez will be here September 30 and October 1. The demonstrations on the 30th will be square to round bowls, a natural edge winged bowl from log or crotch, and a twice-turned vase or bowl. Don't forget to sign up for the hands-on workshop on October 1.



At the July meeting, Frank Miller gave us a cooking show style demonstration of a three sided, multi-axis box. Amazing how those finished pieces kept popping out of Frank's magic oven. Great demo Frank.



For the show & tell Glen Robinson brought some "bowl from a board" rings he had cut with a "Ring Master" system and requested help on making the thin rings work, there were plenty of suggestion from several members. Hope to see a finished bowl soon, Glen. Richard Thomas showed us a segmented box with several sand-burned plugs and a few wood-burned orbs and hollow forms. Beautiful work Richard. Curtis Kortemeier donated two nice pieces for the November craft show. Dave Mills brought a Walnut salad bowl and a small hollow form made from a Banksia seedpod. Thank you all for participating.

On Tuesday July 18, Dave, Wayne, and I (with Dave acting as a hands-on supervisor) added a 13-foot double tier shelf to the club's wood storage units at Zuni Pines. It was a design on the fly project and looks pretty good, but it's a good thing none of us has to make a living doing carpentry.

Remember, the club needs donations for the fall craft show, November 17 and 18. Don't wait until the last minute to donate. Hope to see you all on the 12th. – Nik Nikakis, Secretary [Photos by Paul Cote]

July Hands-On Report

The smoke from the California fires dissipated long enough for us to have a beautiful clear day at Zuni Pines. There was a good turnout with shavings being generated from several lathes. Gary Muma had "Mama Bear" roughing a couple of vases. Frank was giving instructions on the skew chisel and turning a pepper mill. Donna Dimmick made her first visit to a hands-on and we hope to see her at many more. Earl McCracken made use of Dave's band saw and, with Frank's help, cut some Elm



rounds into useable bowl blanks. Dave made several trips to wood storage sheds to sell wood and show off the latest shelves. During the week Dave used the new shelves to reorganize the club wood and in doing so found several marginal pieces that he had in his shop free to members.

Remember if you have a project that requires a large lathe or if you just want to visit the lovely Zuni Pines, give Dave a call. He will be happy to have you and there may be some of that free wood still available. Dave, thanks for hosting and the Zuni blend coffee – Nik Nikakis [Photos by Paul Cote]

Swan Neck Hollowing Tools

The swan neck design for wood hollowing tools dates back to the first hand-held hollowing tools and are used for hollowing or undercutting wood turnings. They are liked because the design puts the cutting edge in line with the center axis of the handle allowing for maximum control with minimum torque on the handle of the tool. Like most hollowing tools, a light touch and keeping chips clear is essential for control.

I am currently making Swan neck tools in 1/4" and 3/16" diameters. The bending jig is an old design that blacksmiths used for forming intricate patterns in iron. I used a block of steel and drilled holes for two 1/2" hardened steel dowel pins and two 1/4" hardened steel dowel pins. To start forming, I heat the drill rod to dull red and form the hook. Second, I heat again and then form the recurve neck. I reheat and adjust the bend for the cutter at the center axis of the tool handle. Once the curves are correct I hammer the tool flat to get any twist out that occurs in forming. I then let the tool cool slowly. After cooling, I grind the flat parallel to the tool axis. This was a problem before I mounted it on the angle plate. If you have a surface grinder, it is much preferred method of sharpening.

I ran into a problem with the first of these tools I made trying to get the cutting flat perpendicular to the rotation of the turning. The flat was always a little off when grinding it by hand. Because this tool has a recurve bend, the grind has to be exact unlike a round tool. I solved this by rigging a miniature grinder with a 90-degree angle plate to get the flat in the correct location. The Kant-twist clamp has a v-groove built in to keep the tool in position when grinding. The fence is set to give me depth control so the depth of the grind is half of the diameter of the tool.

			
Pattern used to compare shape while forming	1/2" forming pins first bend	Back bend with 1/2" pins	1/4" pin set for fine tuning shape
			
Vice grip pliers modified with groove in jaws for heating and forming	Grindstone setback from fence 1/2 of tool diameter	Fence set to finished tool flat thickness	Tool clamped to angle plate set parallel with edge

– Article and photos by Frank Miller

A Quick Tour of My Shop

My shop is one-half a two-car garage. My wife Denise parks her car in the other half. That's a rule. This is pretty much what it looks like all of the time, some times better and some times worse. Going from left



to right around the back; a 1990s Grizzly band saw. Under the box of wood flooring and other stuff is an old 10" Craftsman table saw. On the wall above the saw is my shop library. Next to the table saw is a bench drill press and 12" planer mounted on an old yard sale tool cart. Behind that two 11 drawer rolling tool boxes (when I retired I had the same box at work that I had at home so now I have two, both full). On the wall are shelves with a bit of everything. Nova DVR lathe with angel body ready for sanding. Turning tools on shelf behind lathe. More shelves with a bit more of everything; overflowing wood rack, the back of the rack is used for clamp storage. In the middle on the left, my woodworking bench is under the pile of unfinished projects and other clutter; my turning tool caddy; wood flooring for my next home project stacked next to another bench with two grinders and a miter saw. Between that bench and the wood rack are two old 6" grinders mounted on a stand and modified for buffing. The large tools are all on wheels, so I can move Denise's car and use the other half of the garage. In a cabinet outside are an air compressor and large canister vacuum both fed into the shop. Not shown in the photos is a third bench next to the band saw with a 12" disc sander, machine vice and pegboard for frequently used hand tools. Above the bench are more shelves for stuff like power tools and small parts.

If you enjoyed this quick tour, try it yourself. Take a couple of snapshots of your shop and write a brief description. Send to cvwnews@charter.net. We'd all like to see your setup. – Article and photos by Nik Nikakis

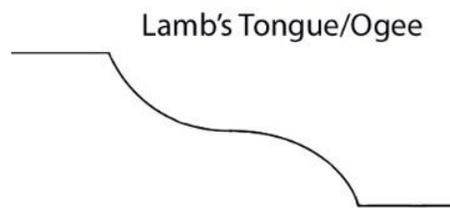
Skew Chisel Warm-ups/Practice

I gathered these warm-ups a while back when I was learning how to better use the skew chisel. For some good information check out the club videos by Mike Darlow or Alan Lacer.

Suggested wood type and dimensions: Use something soft and dry such as Poplar or Pine, approximately 1 3/4" square and 5" to 6" in length.

#1: Remove corners from half the length using a planing method, the other half using the peeling method. Turn the block to an even cylinder using a planing cut. From the middle, taper the block down to a straight taper just slightly larger than the drive center; do the same to the other half. Turn the block back into a small cylinder. Avoid hitting the drive centers (leave larger diameters at the ends). Turn as small a cylinder as possible.

#2: Turn a cylinder from the block. For one third of the length create V's that are below the diameter of the cylinder. For another one third of the length create V's that are proud of the surface. For the remaining portion of the cylinder, create several individual micro beads, then a grouping of three or four micro beads. Face off both ends of the cylinder with shoulder cuts.



#3: Create a square-shouldered pommel on one end of the square, a rounded shouldered pommel on the other end. Peel into the middle to create space for two more pommels. Do a rounded pommel on the left side, a lamb's tongue/ogee shouldered pommel on the other.

#4: Turn the block into a cylinder. Starting at the left, lay out three beads approximately 1" wide, then three 7/8" wide, then three 3/4" wide, then three 1/2" wide.

#5: Turn the block to a cylinder. In the middle turn a 3/8" wide bead that is proud of the cylinder. Using saucer cuts, cut the bead free of the cylinder. Using a coving cut, trap the bead within a deep cove. On the side near the headstock, about 1/2" from the end, make a series of V cuts, round over the end of the remaining stock that is close to the V cut. With a series of V cuts, part off the stock leaving a nice rounded end.

#6: Find a blank with one or more large, solid knots. Plane the square into a rounded shape being careful around the knots. Try to cut the knots as cleanly as possible by using the planning method. Vary the angle of presentation and a very slow tool feed rate. Complete by light scraping across the knot. – Article by Nik Nikakis

Dates to Remember

The Texas woodturning clubs will host their **25th annual SWAT Woodturning Symposium**, August 25-27, in Waco, TX. The event features demos, vendors, an instant gallery, raffles and a banquet, Demonstrators include Trent Bosch, Andy Cole, James Duxbury, Al Hockenbery, Eric Lofstrom, and Molly Winton. Pre-registration on August 8. For more info visit www.swa-turners.org.

The **17th annual Rocky Mountain Woodturning Symposium** will be held September 15-17 at the Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland, CO. Demonstrators include Stuart Batty, Trent Bosch, Cynthia Carden Gibson, Kurt Hertzog, Eric Lofstrom, Jonathon Medina, Carmen de la Paz, Curt Theobald, and Tom Wirsing. For more info visit www.rmwoodturningsymposium.com or contact Alan Jensen, (970) 663-1868.

The **American Association of Woodturners** has announced that its **32nd Annual International Symposium** will be held in Portland, OR, on June 14–17, 2018 at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97232. Check out the AAW [web site](#) for more information as it becomes available.

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 September 2017 newsletter is August 28.

CVW Meeting Location and Directions

Instead of our regular monthly CVW meeting, we will hold our summer picnic on August 12 at the Aspen Park Clubhouse, 1380 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV 89410. Donna Dimmick will be contacting members for their plans to attend and what type of food they are bringing.

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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