



# Chatter and Catches

the Newsletter of the



May 2020  
Volume 12, Issue 12



## President's Gouge

I hope you're all safe and healthy. I checked and none of this is on my bucket list. Or I hope on anybody's. Not much to write about with no recent meetings. I'm sure you are all getting time in your shops to work on projects and refine tool technique. I got out a Bedan and tried a few cuts and then put it back in the drawer with my hand thread chasers and Chinsé ball tools.

I've been able to complete a few projects that have been collecting dust in my shop for longer than I care to admit and I dug out a few that will continue to collect dust or maybe become kindling.

I want to thank all of you that have taken the time to share photos of what you're doing with the rest of us. There's some great stuff coming out of your shops. Keep the photos coming.

If you need ideas for projects the club can always use your donations for future craft shows. (Yes, there will be craft shows in our future). We can use; salad bowls, platters, natural edge bowls, utility bowls, kitchen or grilling utensils, Christmas ornaments, anything from Banksia pods, yarn bowls and any turned item you would like to donate.

Hopefully, we'll be able to have meetings in the near future. Until then take advantage of our many options through social technology, binge-watch and stay safe and healthy.

Keep a lookout for club emails with updated information and more project photos from the members.

See you soon.

John "Nik" Nikakis, POTCVW

### Turn Here for Safety

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

## Wayne E Ferree

January 7<sup>th</sup> 1932 – March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020

The world and our club lost a very special person with the passing of Wayne Ferree. I personally lost a good friend. I want to thank Wayne's wife Diane for her input about Wayne's early years before we crossed paths. If you're lucky enough to live to the ripe old age of 88 and are as active as he was throughout his life, there's probably an interesting story there. In our small world of Carson Valley Wood Turner's our average age of the membership is probably 65 to 70 years. This person was a policeman, this one a brain surgeon, old so and so was in prison for impersonating a wood turner, we all have had a varied past before joining the club. This is Wayne's story.

Wayne E. Ferree was born in St. Louis, Missouri on January 7, 1932 to Everett and Maxine Winkler Ferree. His family was tight knit. His early



years were spent in a home shared by his parents, sister and grandparents. He had many interests from an early age including building model airplanes. He learned to swim on a family vacation and worked at local pools as a life guard. He continued swimming and played water polo in college.

After high school, he worked his way through Washington University in St. Louis with a dual major in two engineering disciplines. No student loan back then. During his college years, Wayne adopted his first dog Bucky and was rarely without a canine companion for the rest of his life. He became a cat lover after adopting a couple of stray cats on the Sacramento Delta. Wayne and I had that in common, our love of animals. He would come by the shop, we would shoot the breeze about turning, politics, the state of the world etc. Dogs always came up, he would talk about this or that dog he had adopted, usually, well along in years. He would nurture and care for those animals like they were his children. Money was no object with the veterinary bills, just the dogs comfort and wellbeing. One of his dogs he took to Los Angeles for some type of lifesaving procedure, not available anywhere else. Yes, it was costly, but more than worth it to save his friend.

After graduation, Wayne started working for a local engineering firm, then the Korean war broke out, he was drafted and stationed in New Mexico. He was assigned to an artillery rocket battalion. They had a new rocket that did not have a guidance system. You pretty much aimed it like a long range rifle and hoped it would hit the target. It was pretty much useless, they could not hit anything with any accuracy. Wayne observed this and told some of the brass that he could make it work. They said, see what you can do. Low and behold he could hit the target time and time again at long distances. The accuracy of the unit improved greatly once he was assigned. He was very proud of that, he would talk about it a lot in our wood shop bull sessions.

Wayne was discharged from the Army after two years and went back to work for the same engineering firm. Wayne tried to learn as much as possible. After spending a year designing bridges, he requested transfers into various other departments, working on designing levees & dams, highways, airports and public works. During this period he completed a MBA at St. Louis University. His third degree, but who's counting!

He married Judy in 1957. They became parents of two sons, Craig and; Ken. They were married for 25 years. Wayne met Diane his current wife in 1987, after a long engagement, they married in 2004. They remained together till Wayne's passing.

During a design project at Lambert Field in St. Louis, Wayne felt he needed to learn soils and foundation engineering. He took a leave to attend a masters soils engineering program at Harvard University and MIT. Not wanting to be redundant, another couple of universities. Harvard and MIT! If you were to meet Wayne on the street or a social gathering he would never strike you as a highly educated person, unassuming, just one of the guys.

He moved to Palo Alto, California in 1966 to work for a company specializing in dams. After 2 years, he and another engineer founded Terratech, a civil and soils engineering firm in San Jose. He remained with Terratech until he sold the company in 1999.

When Wayne experienced the clear weather in Northern California, he started flying lessons and became a proficient pilot with several ratings. He continued flying until two years ago. Wayne and I both had a common interest in flying. One more thing for us to shoot the breeze over. I had a pilot certificate and owned an airplane in my younger years. My plane was a two seater, tail dragger, hand prop to start it. No electrical, barest of bones stuff. Wayne had his Beach Bonanza with all the bells and whistles. The latest and greatest in navigation and radio equipment. Every time he was feeling better he would talk about flying again. Wanting to get back in the air.

Wayne was always handy and started assembling a woodworking shop in his garage sometime after moving to California.

After moving to Nevada, Wayne continued working as a forensic engineering consultant. He built a home in Carson Valley that included a woodworking shop. One Saturday, he attended the Chili Cook-off at the Carson Valley Inn and stopped to watch the Carson Valley Wood Turner's work in

their booth. He was hooked.

That's when I met Wayne for the first time, nothing memorable, just another guy interested in wood turning. My relationship with Wayne had some pretty rocky times. I never would dream that we would end up as good friends. The rocky times started when the club lost it's liability insurance through AAW. Out of the blue they canceled every clubs insurance because of lawsuits over safety issues. That's when Wayne brought up all these things safety wise, we were doing wrong or not doing at all. He attended a board meeting at my house raising his concerns and my blood pressure. He and another board member who is no longer with the club, kept telling us about all the safety and legal minefields we were setting the club up for. I didn't want to hear about it. I am a fly by the seat of your pants kind of guy, Wayne was a cross the Tees and dot the Is type. Now Wayne at this time was being hired as an expert witness (engineering consultant) in lawsuits and being paid handsomely for it. He experienced the worst in people. Sue happy clients over the smallest of issues and the worst in lawyers. suing for any reason for the bucks. He foresaw lots of legal issues for the club. I resigned from the board, the club found another insurer. I took exception to Wayne and all his fear mongering, thinking he was a just a troublemaker. Who do you think was right? Mr. fly by the seat of your pants or the safety guy. I am of English heritage with a sick sense of humor. It has created problems over the years. When I became club president years later I would be addressing the members and I would make a smart comment about safety and usually mention Wayne in the same sentence. I was trying to get his goat, get him flustered, maybe quit the club. It did not bother him in the least, he did not take offense, I was baffled. I finally figured out, you could not insult the man. He did not take offense, he only cared about the club and safety. From that day on we referred to him as the safety guy. That was the start of our friendship, that grew with time.

Last time I saw Wayne was about a week before our last hands on in February, he said he wanted to talk to me about the club. He had recently brought up a safety issue that the club had been neglecting. He never brought up the safety issue, his concern was about what the club had in mind when Wayne Porter and I no longer held meetings. I told him what the plan is, seemed to put him at ease. He then started talking about his life in a reflective mood. Talked about his time in the military and the rocket system. When he was younger he was really into canoeing, saying all his old canoeing buddies were gone. Said he really missed his dogs of days gone by. He had been an avid trap shooter in the day. He talked about the day he could not miss, finished in first place. He was all excited wondering what his prize would be. He was really disappointed when they gave him a framed picture of little value. He had it hanging on a wall to remind him of that day when he could not miss, besting his buddies. He was upset his body was letting him down. He was not feeling well, you could tell. Complained about his legs swelling, not being able to sleep. Said doctors could not find anything. I mentioned the Mayo Clinic, telling him a friend in the medical field had just been there, raved about it. He said that was a good idea, thought he might check it out. Obviously that never came to be.

A week later at the hands on I was walking down to the woodsheds, my phone rang, it was Wayne. He wanted to know if I was mad at him over the latest safety issues he had brought up. I laughed, said we were good. It was a short call, but I am so glad I got to talk to him for the last time. It was like he was saying, are we good, I want to know before I depart.

Wayne was not a believer, we had talked about that in the past. I told him I hoped there was something after this. When I got the email from Diane about his passing I talked to the powers that be upstairs. Told him they were getting a very special guy and to take care of him. Said if they had any safety issues they might want to put him in charge. Smooth crossing my friend. - Dave Mills

## Finishing the Bottom of a Bowl

The two common methods of supporting a turned bowl in order to finish the base are jam chucking and a vacuum system. However, there is a third, the “Rebhorn” Chuck.

Support and stability of the piece to be turned when using a jam chuck depends upon the fit of the item into the chuck and can present a problem if the item to be supported has become out-of-round or has an irregular top. Vacuum chucking is expensive (vacuum pump, special turning head, special chucks, ducting system, etc.) and requires an airtight fit between the item to be finished and the chuck. Air can leak through cracks or large pores or defects in the piece, negating the vacuum. Also, delicate items may not be strong enough to support the negative pressure required to hold the item to the chuck. I once was finishing a large and complicated segmented bowl and had the bottom blow out, launching the upper section of the segmented piece and resulting in irreparable damage to my turning. Infiltration of any wood dust into the

pump can destroy the expensive pump (\$500+).



I have both systems, but the method I use most frequently is the Rebhorn system. It is quick and easy to set up and to use, will support any shape of bowl, and will not damage small or delicate items. The basic system consists of a rigid circular plywood face (attached to the headstock with a face plate), your turning, with the base facing the tailstock, encapsulated between a confining second plywood disc (containing a cushioned center hole) and the headstock disc. The confining disc is attached to the headstock disc with a series of 1/4-inch bolts.

I found only one reference to this setup on the internet, with the author calling it a donut chuck. In 2008 I brought this system to the attention of the club and handed out a four page description of the chuck, and its construction. The article was written by Alan Lacer and reproduced from the American Woodturners magazine. I can supply copies of that article to any interested club member. One final note: Mr. Lacer refers to the chuck as the Straka Chuck, but I think it is more appropriate to name it the Rebhorn Chuck in honor of the inventor. – Wayne Ferree [article and photo]

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## The Bedan



Bedan comes from the French word "bédane" (duck beak). This tool is very old, and was used for turning long before gouges appeared. The bedan is a rectangle often square (sometimes trapezoidal) with one bevel of about 45 degrees. They are commonly used for spindle turning, and are often used when turning trembleurs. With care they can also be used for hollowing and scraping. A bedan can be used like a

parting tool to turn a piece to a precise diameter. They can be used like a skew and can make most of the same cuts. They are very good at turning dovetails for chucking with clean straight edges. The tool can be used with the bezel down or up. To learn techniques for using the bedan look up information on French woodturner Jean-François Escoulen.

John "Nik" Nikakis [article and photo]

### Newsletter Editor's Request

Please send your newsletter contributions and suggestions for improvement to the Club Newsletter Editor 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 June 2020 newsletter is June 1.

### CVW Meeting Location and Directions

The meeting for this month has been canceled.

#### 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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