

TURNERS ANONYMOUS

An Association of Woodturners in Western Pennsylvania



NEWSLETTER

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No. 33

December 1999

Next Meeting: Saturday December 18, 1999 @9:30 AM
Location: Peterson & James shop, R.J. Casey Industrial Park
Speaker: Carl Dorsch
Topic: Tool Steels, Tempering and Heat Treating

Last month's meeting

Last month's traditional ornament meeting was a big success. Close to 2 dozen ornaments were on display. There were angels, snowflakes, lanterns, Christmas trees, lighted ornaments, birdhouses and a windmill just to name a few. Certificates were awarded in various categories as voted on by the membership.

Special thanks go out to:

Elmer Hensell who described his unique technique for turning birdhouse bodies.

Jack Brown who demonstrated bell turning.

John Blyshak who came prepared to demonstrate but unfortunately didn't get the opportunity due to time limitations.

December's meeting

There were a lot of questions left unanswered at our "Home Made Tool" meeting earlier this year. Inquiring minds wanted to know more than just the mechanics of the tool making process. Some actually wanted to know "why?". To satisfy your hunger for knowledge, we have invited Mr. Carl Dorch, a tool steels research engineer, to be our guest speaker for this month's meeting. Some of you may remember the excellent lecture Carl gave to the Woodworkers club several years ago. It is still on my "top ten" list of most interesting and informative lectures. Some of the topics that Carl touched on were: tool steel production, tool steel properties (hardness,

toughness and wear resistance), heat treatments and hardness testing. So don't miss out on this opportunity to be enlightened. Bring your questions about oxidation colors, case hardening, quenching mediums, high speed steel, carbon steel, blueing your edge etc.

Web Site Stuff

By now I hope that most of you with a computer at your disposal have checked out our new web site at <http://clik.to/woodturn>. If you have, you may have noticed some empty placeholders just waiting to be filled. Please consider contributing something to fill these voids. If you have any photos of your masterpieces (or disasterpieces), photos taken at one of our meetings, maybe an article describing a tip or technique, just about anything, get it to us and we'll get it out there. I'd hate to think Rob put all his efforts into creating our website for nothing.

Name Tags

I was pleased to see that we had a few new nametags appear at the last meeting. Some were quite impressive. For the sake of the new members, we've been encouraging everyone to wear a nametag, preferably turned (**John F**), so that everyone gets to know each other without having to remember all the names, all at once. I myself, suffer from CRS syndrome and have a hard time connecting faces and names. For those of you unfamiliar with CRS, it's an acronym for **Can't Remember Sh--**.



Dues are due

Just a friendly reminder not to forget your membership dues this meeting. Several were prepared with check in hand at the last meeting however Kent was unable to attend so you may still have that check in your coat pocket.

Survey Says...

The survey results are being tabulated and will be available for the next newsletter. There are still a few forms trickling in. To date 35 members have responded, about 50% of the membership. There is still time to turn one in if you haven't done so as of yet. If there are any programs or demonstrators you'd like to see, I'd strongly recommend filling one out. Don't count on someone else to think like you.

Going, Going, Almost gone...

Hopefully most of you had the opportunity to stop down the Strip District and check out the fine craftsmanship of one of our more popular members, Max Peterson as well as our other host, Bill James. Max, Bill, Craig Marcus and Art Rietmeyer have an excellent display of their works at DESIGNSPACE, 2420 Penn Ave. The show is still on till Dec 12th. Don't miss it. If you're like me, you've seen works in progress at the shop but never the finished piece. Take my advice and stop on by, believe me, you'll be impressed.

Thanksgiving and New Years Thanks

It's that time of year and I thought I'd take advantage of this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make this club a success. I apologize now ahead of time to anyone I forgot to include (remember CRS?). The one thing I learned from experience however is that if you are going to mention names, make sure you mention ALL of them, otherwise mention none. Unfortunately I'm sure I would overlook someone since there are things that go on behind the scenes that I don't even know about. So please forgive me for not making this more personalized. You know who you are, and I hope everyone else takes the time to find out. That being said, I'd like to thank the following people in no particular order:

- Our gracious hosts who allow us to overtake their shop once a month at the expense of their schedules.
- The board members for all the services they provide, some of who make quite a trek just to attend the board meetings.
- The non-board members who come and contribute to the board meetings under no obligation.
- The board meeting host who remains late to accommodate the board meetings.
- The guys who sweep up the shop in preparation for the meeting the evening before.
- Probably one of the most important, the donut courier.
- Our coffee makers.
- Our keeper and tracker of videos
- Our demonstrators.
- Our all important Newsletter editor
- Our webmaster wizard
- The hosts who accommodate our Guest Turners
- The equipment loaners
- The guys who put up and take down the chairs for the meeting
- The folks who provide us with the opportunity to demonstrate at their public events
- Those who have shared their resources, methods, techniques, advice, suggestions with the club.
- The members
- Those who have contributed door prizes.
- The volunteers who helped out during demonstrations at Woodcrafters and the Expo Mart show.
- Those who have contributed financially to the club.
- Those who have helped build the club by recruiting new blood.
- And of course all of those who I have forgotten.

Editor's Note

By now I'm sure you have noticed a slight difference in the newsletter. Our official editor is "laboring" away in Australia on an extended business trip. As such, I've been temporarily relegated the role. Let me stress **TEMPORARILY**. I don't want to cause an uprising as I know everyone looks forward to John's creative word-smithing.

Please copy me on anything you would normally send to John during his absence, e.g. email addresses, Items for Sale etc. Send them to turnanony@aol.com or Jim Vandzura, 234 Red Oak Dr, Pgh Pa 15239.

Don't work too hard John, I pity you having to go there. (Yeah right.)



Collaborative Challenge

I was pleasantly surprised by the number of survey respondents interested in participating in the collaborative challenge at the AAW Charlotte Symposium in July 2000. For those of you unfamiliar with the AAW collaborative challenge, local chapters of the AAW create and submit a woodturned piece, created jointly by their membership. The pieces are voted on by the symposium attendees. Awards are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place and 3 honorable mentions. The rules are pretty simple, at least 6 members must contribute, the piece must weigh less than 25 pounds, be smaller than a 2 foot cube, all member's names must appear on the piece, one representative must be present, and electronic sound devices must have volume and on/off controls clearly labeled. There may be other constraints that we can address as we go. But before we can go, we gotta get started, so start thinking of a unique idea that can be the theme for our challenge piece. If I'm correct, last year's winning entry was a handturned bag of marbles. We could have done that!

T.A. Trivia

Guess what brand lathe was the most popular amongst the Turners Anonymous membership? It probably won't surprise anyone, but Delta was the hands down winner as indicated by the survey results. I'm guessing the majority are vintage models.

National T.A. News

For those of you not present at the last meeting, it was announced that our own Linda VanGehuchten was elected board member to the AAW for a three year term. Check out the Winter issue of "American Woodturner" for details. Hopefully, you all will be able someday to say, "I knew her when ..." . Congratulations Linda!

Homework Assignment (this will count for 60% of your grade)

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that second to the hands-on turning demonstrations, most members enjoy the show & tell portion of our meetings (coffee and donuts excluded). In this forum members share their ideas, methods and techniques. Often, an elegant solution is provided by one member that may have eluded another. Take for example Elmer Hensell's bird house body turning jig. I wonder how many fewer @#!%\$#'s will be traversing the air waves since his demonstration.

Sometimes however, believe it or not, there are answers or solutions that even TA members don't have. Where do you go from there? For those of you with internet access, I'd strongly recommend checking out the woodturning forum on Deja.com. If you are unfamiliar with how to get there, from your browser punch in the URL <http://deja.com> . From there click on the "Power Search" menu item. In the forum entry box type in "rec.crafts.woodturning", and hit the ENTER key. This will take you to the woodturning forum where you can search for just about anything, topics, authors, tools etc. Or just browse to keep up with what's going on in the woodturning world. Latest discussions as of this week were on speeding up the drying process, finishing cocobola, JET mini lathe problems, ONEWAY chucks, bottle stoppers, VICMARK lathes vs NOVA lathes etc. You can even get advice from John Jordan who is a regular on the forum.

Someone asked at a recent meeting about drilling long, clean holes through a spindle without it wandering off center. A quick search on this forum suggested a link to the homepage of gentleman named Mike Nelson who makes chanters for bagpipes on his lathe. His homepage shows a "how-to" article on making a "D" drill bit which he claims makes clean, smooth, true holes. It looks fairly simple to make. I thought as a carry over from our homemade tool meeting and as a prelude to our heat treating meeting and the upcoming musical instrument show & tell that some one may be ambitious enough to make one. Bring it to the next meeting if possible. The link is <http://www.geocities.com/Paris/5701/>. For those of you without computers, I have included the Reader's Digest condensed version below.

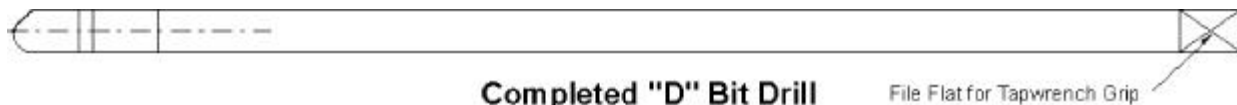


4 Stages in the Manufacture of "D" Bit Drill

The bore of the chanter is the most **important** part of the instrument and must be as accurate and as smooth as possible. There are a number of different styles of drill that can be used to produce the bore including the ordinary twist drill but, although I know of makers who use the twist drill, I have found it very prone to wandering and the bore produced is generally less accurate and somewhat rough, so I will concentrate on the style of drill that I use. This is a 'D' bit drill, and if carefully made, in accordance with these instructions, will produce smooth, straight holes. This type of drill was first used in the early manufacture of muskets and other artifacts requiring a long straight holes in the days before modern accurate machines were available. Start by selecting a straight rod of "silver steel". This is a medium carbon steel supplied as a ground rod in lengths of 330mm (13") in a wide range of sizes.

For the chanter, which will be reamed after drilling, a diameter of 4mm will be correct. Cut off the first 2mm of the rod as it is likely that this has been hardened by the method used to cut the rods to length. Put into the lathe with about 20mm out of the chuck. Start up the lathe and, using a fairly fine file, shape the end to a hemisphere. Smooth the end with emery paper to remove the file marks but take care not to affect the the outside diameter of the rod as it is important that the rod diameter is left untouched. Remove from the lathe and grip in a vice with the same 20mm sticking out and file a flat down to the center of the rod for the full 20mm . Take special care with this operation, the flat should be parallel to the centreline of the rod and just (not more than 0.05mm (.002") short of the centreline.

You should now have a "D" shaped section 20mm long finishing in a half hemisphere. File a groove across the flat, 3mm wide and 0.5mm deep. This is to grip the plug of swarf to ensure its easy removal. Relieve the trailing edge of the hemisphere to avoid rubbing during cutting the hole. Harden the end of the tool as described in the paragraph on hardening (NOT INLCUDED). The flat must now be rubbed on a smooth oilstone to sharpen the cutting edges. File a flat on the other end to grip in a tap wrench and the drill is ready for use.



Completed "D" Bit Drill

File Flat for Tapwrench Grip