



Ed Eich, Manager



**Kathy Villani
Assistant Manager**

Stained Glass

STAINED GLASS GROUP

No report this month.



Hans Zassenhaus, Manager

Special Projects, Website

Special Projects:

We are always in need of VWC Members to assist in working on Special Projects. Any member can select a Special Project from the **Green Binder** at the front Desk. Simply choose a project, ensure that you have entered your name on the sheet in the “Assigned To” space and then proceed to fulfill the requirements. When you have finished the project, put a piece of purple tape on the project, store it in the Special Projects Area of the Shop AND notify the Front Desk that you have finished the project. Many projects will require less than one-hour to complete.

Please use the Special Projects checklist available in the front of the green binder. This document provides you with many tips and hints when you are working on a special project. As always, we are looking for additional input to make this checklist more effective.

The following are statistics for period January 11 – February 09:

Special Projects Accepted:	69
Special Projects completed:	42
Hours Worked:	116.5
Total contributions to the VWC:	\$ 2076.57

Pre-Made Items managed by Bernie Harkins

Items Sold	292
Total Contributions:	\$ 3136.49

Thanks to all VWC members who contributed their time and talents in working on these Special Projects and Pre-Made items.

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Website:

In January we added a new feature to the website that displays all VWC Education courses you have taken prior to the current Course Term. This is available to members after logon under the Members Lounge tab. You can use this listing to ensure that you have met pre-requisite courses prior to registration.

Education:

As you register for a class, this class will appear on your personal schedule of classes. Your Monitor assignments also show up in your personal Monitor Schedule, Both of these personal schedules appear under the Members Lounge tab when you sign onto the website, as <http://www.thevwc.org>.

To see a listing of all classes that are available for registration, go to <http://www.thevwc.org/Education/Available-Classes>. Note that you must log onto our website before viewing this report.

If you have an idea of how to improve the website please send your suggestions to woodshop@thevwc.org.



Administration – Front Office

Anne Bell, Manager

We need at least 10-15 members who want to work at the front desk either at Rolling Acres or at Brownwood.

If you are interested in working at the front office please contact Anne Bell at 352-350-2416 or by email at apbell06@embarqmail.com.



Member Merchandise

Steve Eikenberry

Mike Gilman joined the merchandise team as a seller and my assistant manager for the Brownwood Shop. Nothing else to report.



Library

Mark Corner

Although Mark has been under the weather he did advise me that he has paid for the index for the Library.



Education

Deb Larouere

Thanks to many members who are stepping in on the fly to assist, as needed, to provide mini lessons. We are a safer Shop! You matter!

The Volunteers in the Education Department continue to look for ways to assist members to sharpen and acquire new skills and friendships. There are a few spots still open in spring classes. Find these on thevwc.org website and by chatting with Instructors, as new ones pop up and are filled that day!

Efforts to assist new members through the P Zero Mentoring process are working. Both the new members and the Mentors are having fun. We need more Mentors. If you have some skills, a willing heart and a few hours, post your contact info on the Skills Connection bulletin board at the Shop or contact Debbie Larouere or John Herega.



IT (Information Technology)

Bill Pappas

Current efforts revolve around daily support of existing IT systems such as the Front Desk and Electronic Doors. Development efforts continue to take place for the systems we will need when we have a second wood shop location.

Last year we obtained access to products through the Microsoft Non-Profit Program. One of the products is Microsoft Share Point a content sharing tool. We believe it can be a valuable tool to help manage the Clubs two

locations. Cindy Verdick has volunteered to lead the project and work with each department to help determine and implement their requirements.



Lumber

Stephen Yovan, Manager and Chairman of the Board

Lumber species of the month... **Spruce**

Characteristics.... Spruce ranges from near-white to a pale yellow brown, with very little distinction between sapwood and heartwood. It is typically straight-grained, with a fine texture and a natural luster. The contrast between the lighter earlywood and darker latewood makes the growth rings clearly visible. Quarter sawn surfaces occasionally show an attractive ripple figure known as 'flower grain' or Haselichte.

Durability....The wood is not durable, with little resistance to attack from decay-causing fungi, longhorn and pinhole borers and wood wasps. The sapwood is vulnerable to attack from common furniture beetle. The heartwood is resistant to preservative treatment.

Properties... The wood has low resistance to shock loads and low stiffness, medium crushing and bending strength, and very poor steam-bending properties. It works easily and well with both machine and hand tools and has a slightly blunting effect, but hard knots can damage cutting edges. *The fifth person who can tell me the origin of this species will get a free bowl blank.* Call 513 295 4149. Spruce planes, turns, saws, bores, molds, glues, sands, nails, screws, varnishes, paints and stains well.

Origin ... Europe, western Russia, Canada and USA

Common uses.... Apart from Christmas trees, spruce is used for carpentry, interior construction, and joinery, boxes and crates, domestic flooring, pit props, pulp and paper, ladder stringers, veneer and plywood. Selected timber (known as 'Swiss pine') is quarter sawn to make soundboards for stringed musical instruments.

Possible health risk.... Respiratory problems, irritation to nose and throat, allergic bronchial asthma

Availability... about 80 board feet is in stock at \$4.00 per board foot, in 8" widths and in 8' lengths by 4/4 thickness.



Conway Williams, Manager

Toys

We participated in two outside activities since my last report.

- We had Toys on the Square at Lake Sumter Landing on Wednesday February 12th. The Toy Team of Ron Gammon, John Scott, Mike Custard, Dennis Draskowski, Ken Vanderloop and myself enjoyed a beautiful evening, a big crowd and a good band combined to generate Toy Sales of \$247.00 in toy sales and \$50.00 in donations. We did have several opportunities to talk about the Club and answer questions about the new shop. We also met several people who were already on the waiting list and looking forward to getting into the shop.
- On Tuesday March 3rd we participated in an early March Toys on the Square at Spanish Springs. Toy Team of Ron Gammon, Spike Durant, Dennis Draskowski, Ken Vanderloop and myself enjoyed another pleasant evening with a good band and crowd, but slow sales activity resulting in Toy Sales of \$159.00 and \$67.00 in donations.

I would like to recognize the continuing efforts of Joe Stone and his Wednesday Euchre Group at the Paradise Rec Center. The Group has supported the Toy Department with a fund raiser every February for the last 9 years. This year their efforts resulted in a record donation of \$ 547.00, plus another \$67.00 in toy sales!

Both the Painters and the Elves continue their hard work, but we were impacted by a large number of team members being absent for a variety of health related issues and planned travel.

On the production side:

- In February we produced 600 toys which give us a year to date total of 1601. That means we are 649 toys behind where we were at the end of February last year.
- Thus far in March we have produced an additional 111 toys.

On the shipping side:

- We have shipped 440 toys to 2 clients with a donation value of \$2,000.00 in February. This means we have shipped 1,329 toys with a donation value of \$6,541.00 year to date.
- Thus far in March we have made no shipments to clients.

We are still working hard to train and assimilate the half dozen new toy makers that have joined our ranks since December.

We will be doing Toys on the Square again on Tuesday April 7th at Spanish Springs starting at 5 pm. Please come out and support the Toy Department.



Safety and Turners

John Herega, Manager of Safety and Turners

The turner's group monthly meeting will be held Tuesday March 17, 2020 promptly at 7:00PM in the shop. The demonstrator will be Tom Coghill. Tom is on the waiting list to join the VWC. His demo will be on embellishments to turnings, how to use pyrography on turnings, how to make your own tips using Nichrome wire and how to use different forms other than "natural" colorings.

Please bring a show and tell item.

NEW LATHES:

There have been some slight difficulties with the tool rest clamping device on both lathes.

- Jet: equipped with a two piece shaped barrel type of clamp, similar to the device on the Robust lathe. It is important to be sure the device is lined up properly with the interior of the tool rest opening.
- The capacity over the lathe bed has been increased. Because of this, the after-market shorter shaft tool rests, painted and marked "Jet", may be too short thus causing your tool to be positioned too low on the workpiece. **USE THE TOOL RESTS MARKED POWERMATIC, FOR THIS JET LATHE.** Continue to use the Jet marked tool rests for the older jets. The black tool rest was supplied with the new lathe and is the proper size.
- **POWERMATIC:** This tool makes use of a clamping type device. Use only the tool rests marked "POWERMATIC" on this lathe as the diameter of the Jet tool rests are slightly smaller. **Please do not adjust the cap screw located on the left side of the banjo, at the clamp.**

If you encounter a problem with either lathe please inform John Herega or maintenance; please do not force any tool rests into the banjo.

TURNER SUPPLIES HALF PRICE SALE Limited quantities still available.

Anyone interested in demonstrating a wood turning item or technique, contact John Herega at herega@hughes.net, leave a message at the front desk, or call his cell phone number.

We bring in various demonstrators from local clubs and surrounding areas, we are looking for demonstrators that are new to the group, and we would love for our very own talented members to share their talents with us. Any suggestions or ideas are welcome.

Following the meeting there will be a social period and demonstrator critique. Snacks will be provided, bring your choice of beverage.

APPAREL

There is a limited supply of woodshop caps available, both carvers and general membership. See John Herega or front desk personnel.

VWC apparel, shirts and hats are available at Custom Apparel, 3451 Wedgewood Lane, Buffalo Ridge Plaza, rt.466. Aprons, smocks, respirators, dusk masks, safety glasses and side shields are available in the shop.

Inquire at the front desk or contact John Herega.

Tan smocks are in stock at a reduced price

SAFETY

The next Safety Committee meeting will be **MONDAY MARCH 23, at 9:30am** in the library.

We are looking for additional members especially those who will be transferring to the Brownwood shop as well as anyone interested in joining this committee.

ERGONOMICS

WHAT IS ERGONOMICS?

It is the study of work - and it is important because learning how to work smart will keep you from having the kinds of injuries that can happen over time.

Your body is like a tool that you use in the shop – care for it and use it wisely and it will last a long time. Put too much strain on it and you can damage it.

Ergonomics became popular during and after World War II when too many pilots crashed planes because they hit the wrong controls and became tired and uncomfortable sitting in cockpits that did not fit them very well. Scientists discovered that by designing the cockpit to fit the pilots better and putting the controls in more convenient locations there were fewer plane crashes.

Nowadays ergonomics applies to all kinds of work, trying to make it safer and less stressful on the body

There are six risk factors – conditions that can increase your chance of getting injured – that you need to be aware of

1. Vibrating Tools or Machines:

Holding tools such as sanders or chainsaws that vibrate, or sitting in trucks or other kind of equipment that vibrate, such as forklifts.

2. Repetitive Movements:

Repeating similar movements with the same muscles for long periods of time - like hammering, sawing, or using a screwdriver.

3. Excessive Force:

Lifting, pressing, gripping, pinching, pulling or pushing more than you can handle.

4. Awkward Postures:

Bending, twisting, or extending your back, neck, shoulder, wrist, or knees.

(Roofing is an example of a job that often requires this kind of awkward posturing.)

5. Contact Stress:

When the pressure or jolt from a tool or machine creates a concentrated force on the body - like kneeling, pounding with your bare hand, resting your forearm on the edge of a table, or having the handle of a screwdriver digging into the palm of your hand.

6. Temperature Extremes:

When a worker has to work in very hot or very cold temperatures; both conditions can make your muscles get tired sooner.

FINISHING: PREPARING THE WOOD SURFACE

SANDING MACHINES

There are three common hand-held sanding machines: belt sander, orbital pad sander and random-orbit sander. The way each works determines the surface it produces.

Belt Sanders will remove a lot of wood very fast. This can be an advantage when wood removal is the goal. But when you're trying to achieve flatness and smoothness, a belt is dangerous to use. You must keep the sander flat on the surface, moving at all times, and avoid even the slightest rocking motion – side-to-side or front-to-back – or the sander will dig into the wood, leaving hollows or ridges. Make one mistake with this tool on solid wood, and you may find yourself spending hours correcting it, especially if you don't notice the problem until you apply the finish. Veneer should never be belt sanded. Except when I want to remove a lot of wood quickly, I seldom use a belt sander.

Orbital pad sanders are much tamer than belt sanders, but they're also much less effective. Because this sander works with an orbital motion, it inevitable leaves small orbital scratches on the wood surface. These scratches are almost invisible until you put on a stain and finish. Then they scream at you. To reduce the scratching, don't set the sander down on the wood until it is running at full speed, and don't slow the sander down by pressing on it. Sand to what would normally be your finest grit if you were hand sanding. Move the sander back and forth slowly in the direction of the grain, and check often to make sure no splinter or foreign object has become lodged between the sandpaper and the wood, as this will leave deeper orbital scratches. It's almost always wise to finish off by hand sanding with fine sandpaper and a sanding block in the direction of the grain.

Random-orbit sanders, which incorporate an orbital as well as a revolving movement, fall between belt sanders and pad sanders for their ability to remove wood. They are not as aggressive as belt sanders and are far more effective than pad sanders. Random orbit sanders are also less likely than belt sanders to gouge the wood and somewhat less likely than pad sander to leave scratches in the wood. For most sanding operations a random orbit sander is the best machine choice.

Random orbit sanders are so efficient because their speed and randomness of their scratch pattern. These two factors increase the cutting effectiveness while minimizing scratching.

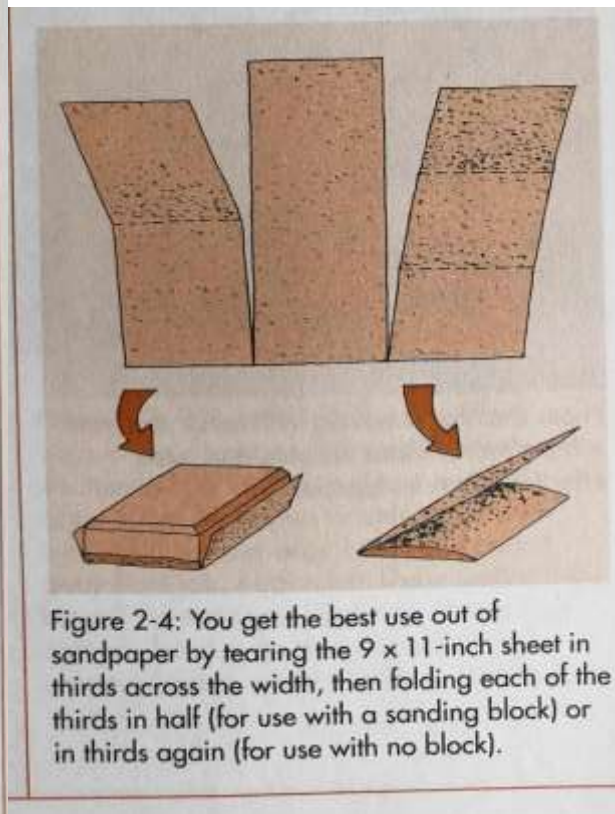
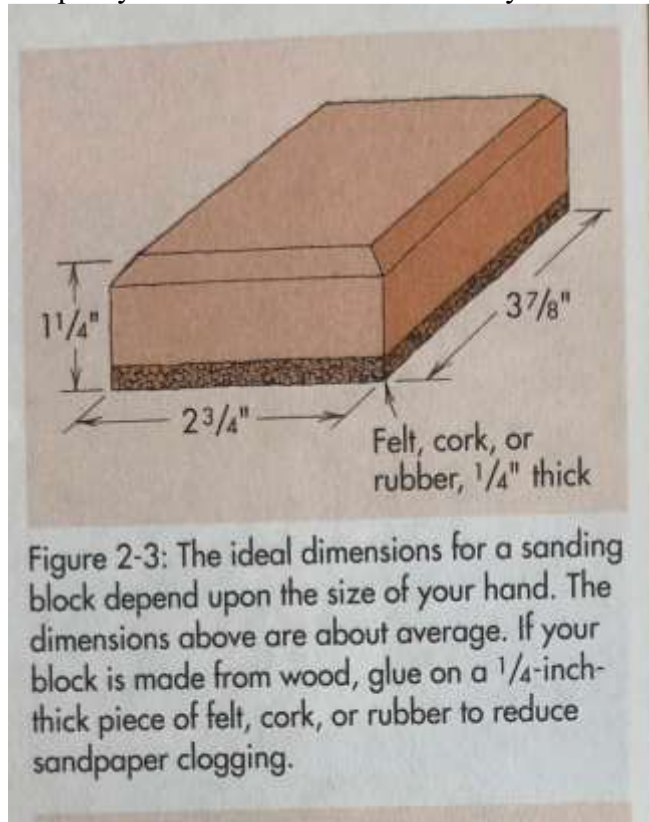
For best results, start with the sander while it is on the wood. (This is the opposite of the way you start a pad sander. If you wait until the random-orbit sander is running at full speed to set it on the wood, the sander tends to gouge.) Use a light touch, and move the sander at an even speed in regular patterns, aiming to keep the surface as flat as possible.

Contrary to the publicity you hear about random-orbit sanders, they do leave scratches in the wood. It's best to finish off by hand sanding, the same as you would with pad sanders.

Hand Sanding

Sanding by hand is almost a lost art, but it is a very effective way to sand wood. You can hold the sandpaper in your hand, or you can wrap the sandpaper around a block made of cork, felt, rubber or wood. If you use a wood block glue a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ " cork onto the bottom to provide a cushion behind the sandpaper to reduce clogging. A chalkboard eraser or a material like ceiling tile can also be used to back up your sandpaper.

It's almost always better, when sanding flat surfaces, to back up sandpaper with a sanding block rather than your hand. Your hand will tend to dig out the softer grain in the wood, resulting in a dimpled or ridged effect that's noticeable after you apply the finish. On moldings or other curved surfaces you can't use a flat block. But if you have a large number of pieces to sand, you may find it advantageous to make a negative of the molding from wood, Styrofoam, or other firm material to give good backing to the sandpaper. (A dowel rod of the proper diameter can aid in sanding coves.) Otherwise you can hold the sandpaper in your hand. The dimples you create won't show as badly on moldings or curved surfaces as they would on flat surfaces.



It is also wiser to move the sandpaper with the folded edge facing the direction of travel (grain). An open edge of sandpaper is more likely to catch under a sliver of wood and lift it.

As your final step, run the sandpaper lightly over every right angle edge of the wood to remove sharp corners that can easily dent, can feel unfriendly to the hand and might be too sharp to hold the finish.

SPONGING

Whenever water comes in contact with the wood, the fibers will swell, causing the wood to feel rough to the touch after it has dried. The swollen fibers are often referred to a raised grain. All stains and finishes that contain water raise the grain of the wood. Raised grain telegraphs through the stain or finish, causing the surface to feel rough. It also reduces the depth and clarity.

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Raised grain will happen no matter how smooth you sand the wood before you wet it. Since you can't prevent raised grain, you need to make the fibers swell and *then* sand them before staining . Once removed, the raised grain won't reoccur. This step is called *sponging, whiskering, dewiskering, or raising the grain.*

After sanding the wood to about 180 or 220 grit, wet it with a sponge or cloth top the same extent as you will with the stain or finish. Just short of puddling is about right.

Let the wood dry overnight. Then sand off the raised grain with sandpaper that is at least as fine as the last grit used on the wood. Usually one grit higher. Dull (used) sandpaper is best because it is less likely to remove more than the just the raised grain.

Sand lightly. You want to sand just enough to make the wood feel smooth again. If you sand any deeper, you'll go below the wood fibers that have been swollen, and you'll have to raise the grain again when you apply water. (In practice you'll always have some additional grain raising, but it will be minimal.) Always sand in the direction of the grain.

Don't use steel wool to remove raised grain when you intend to apply a water base stain, or finish. Small pieces of steel wool will break off and lodge in the pores. These pieces will then rust and spot the wood when you apply a water based stain or finish.

If you don't have any used sandpaper lying around, you can make some by rubbing two pieces of sandpaper together.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



Carvers

Pete Bankowski

If you would like to look at wood carving and you have a computer, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) or [google.com](https://www.google.com) and type in "Doug Linker". I feel you will be surprised at what he does with a small piece wood.



Certification & Monitor Training

Dick Besler

Certification scheduled for March 12th; shop will be closed for members. Monitors will be scheduled. Looks like 20 new members will be present. This is the last month for 3 training sessions for monitors. The dates remaining for March will be 18th and 25th.



Urn Project

Alvin Corenblum

Scott Herlick

February was a record setting month for the Urn Project. We had two after 4 pm sessions that together produced 67 standard urns. All of them were acceptable and most of them were excellent. Our group included many of our most accomplished members assisting with the production. Alvin Corenblum was there to lead us with his enthusiasm Dave Adamovich, Bob Berhens, Charlie Murphy, Scott Miller, Dan Rozko and Fred Huber manned jointer, planer and the table saws. Tim Landsford and Carmen Raymond took care of the tops at the shaper. Cindy Boucher, Nancy Blackmore and Linda Davies did a great job assisting all around. Judi Meyers and Connie Macco assisted the production until the first units were completed and then started gluing up the basic box and then supervised the others as they were able to help. Jill Bulmash has stepped up to make sure that we always have enough of the bottoms engraved. Many thanks to any and all that I forgot to mention. This much production may need to continue because we have added another Florida National Cemetery, Jacksonville National. That brings our total to four along with Florida National in Bushnell, Cape Canaveral National in Mimms and Barrancas National in Pensacola. Our larger partnership with the Sons of the American Legion, headed by Doug White, Vice Commander of the “Sons” and a VWC member, has paid off in spades. In the past the Sons have supported the project with cash donations and continue to do so. This year they have committed to delivering the urns also and to start added the Jacksonville location. We are looking forward to a long relationship with the “Sons”.

Anyone that would like to help or would just like to know more about the Urn Project please contact Scott Herlick thru the front desk or just see me in the shop.



Vice President

Rik Peirce

Pens for the Troops

These are the Feb totals.

Feb: 43

YTD: 125

Total: 1650

Please note that we turn pens on the 4th Tuesday from 4 to 6.



Dave Adamovich



Glen Croteau

Maintenance/Shop Administration

PROJECTS-IN-PROCESS: Please be reminded that any and all projects-in-process must be labeled with the proper paperwork. Please be specific in filling out the details, and make certain you secure the notification paperwork on your work. Projects cannot remain in the shop for longer than thirty (30) days unless specific authorization from the Maintenance Department has been granted.

CLAMPS & VISES: When securing Clamps and Vises for glued-up projects, make certain that (in addition to labeling as noted above) you place your project on the floor. Do not leave your projects on the Assembly Room Tables overnight.

RACKED & SHEET STORAGE: As a reminder to ALL MEMBERS (including educational and training instructors) any and all Racked and Sheet Material stored in the Assembly Room Areas cannot remain in the shop longer than thirty (30) days. Please make certain you mark your material CLEARLY with all the pertinent information as requested. Any material that is left after the deadline will be offered back to the shop or available for members to purchase.

If any questions regarding the above please feel free to reach out to **GLENN CROTEAU, Shop Maintenance Admin.,** or **DAVE ADAMOVICH, Equipment Maintenance Manager.**

Note from Dave: At the moment I am working with Jerry and Lowell on the CNC equipment that we will need for both shops. I originally budgeted for the largest CNC but with input from users and the knowledge of the team we are deciding on a more practical size that will give us great quality for both shops at a more reasonable price. The president of Grizzly will be visiting the shop in two to three weeks which I am glad to talk face to face with that makes more sense. I hope to do the same with Southern tools and Woodcraft.

I am presently revising the cost of new equipment as the prices have gone up. Also deciding on the 37" sander between ShopFox or Safety speed which is manufactured in the USA at about the same price as Grizzly.



Woodworking Technology

Lowell Sundermann

Interest in the CNC remains high. Classes have been full, and student's skills have been impressive. We are recommending our existing CNC will stay with us after we open the Brownwood facility, so we are implementing some upgrades and improvements to it. We are wanting it to be configured more like small machines on the market today.

Currently we are recommending to purchase a three station Legacy machine for Brownwood, and move the existing CNC to Brownwood. The Legacy machine will be a bit intimidating to our casual users, thus the reason to give them the option of our current machine at Brownwood. We recommend adding a machine for Rolling Acres that will be a state of the art machine with the ability to add capabilities like machining turnings in the future if needed. Jerry Leinsing was asked and provided an excellent technical report of small to medium size CNC machines that would meet the needs of the Rolling Acres Shop. We are pursuing his recommendations.

The Laser has found a new breed of interested users. We purchased a copy of PhotoLaser Plus software that helps convert images to laser engraving. Several members rolled up their sleeves and have gone wild using its capabilities. It was fun for me to stop by and see a "squad" of members circled around the Laser, working together, excited about what they were accomplishing. And they have done a great job. They will be presenting a checklist of how to accomplish what they learned to the user group on Wednesday March 11th. This is the type of environment I prefer and encourage. Instead of being told how one person understands a machine should be used, you teach them basic tools and rules, and like a research lab, they use there brains to discover new (to us) technologies. Very Cool...



President

Mike Borfitz

It seems the “hurrier” I go the “behinder” I get! And I know that is likely the case for many, many members in the Club. Let me stop for a second and thank you all for your efforts. It is because of you that we have such a great organization – an organization that is very attractive to the general population in our community! And talk about attractive..... We are certifying new members as quickly and as safely as we can, but the interest continues at record speed. As of yesterday, we had 423 names on the waiting list! The certification team has a lot on their hands as they introduce new members to the safe usage of the equipment while keeping an eye out for the folks who have a great desire to become woodworkers, but had no experience in the past. These folks quite naturally need a little more help than the average guy, or gal, who already knows his/her way around a table saw or a planer. To help these fledglings, Dick Besler and his certification team are observing the students throughout the day during certification to identify those who may need further training and /or mentoring. Working along with Education (Deb Larouere) they are helping to direct these new members towards the training that will help them. Please take a minute to thank these teams because their work impacts us all. It makes for more capable, assured new members and it reduces the concern of members with a longer history in the club from the worry that is triggered when a naïve member tries to use equipment unsafely.

Two sites – it’s a reality truly on its way and the management group has a lot of work ahead to make sure that all functions are covered at both sites while keeping consistency among the practices. To that end, we are in the process of making sure that assistant managers are in place, job descriptions are written and clear, standard operating procedures for each area are documented and followed and that each department has a complete appreciation for the effect one department on another. We are very lucky to have discovered within our membership a member who is well versed in Share Point, an application that will help us in this effort. Cindy Verdick will have met with the EOC (Executive Operating Committee a.k.a. “Managerial Staff”) to introduce the program and to get us started right before the General Membership meeting tonight! We are very lucky to have her expertise.

And oh yes, did the above paragraph read scarily like your previous work world? Well, the truth is that we truly do function like a small corporation! I believe that has been instrumental in our success. So, once again, please thank all those folks who bring their work experience to our shop and make it a premier organization!