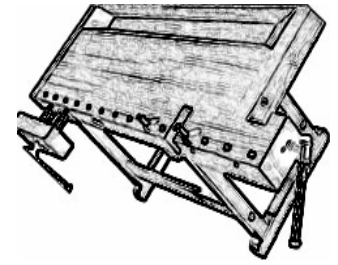


BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild

Issue: JANUARY 2004

Presidents Report – Happy 2004 Everyone!

On behalf of the executive, may I first wish you all our best wishes for a Happy New Year.

As I write this, the year is getting underway. We have had our first executive meeting and have many interesting program ideas for the first several months.

We flubbed the December Benchmark emailing and I am sorry about that. Overlapping holidays were the culprit, however, by the time you read this, you will have received your December Benchmark. I would ask that you have a quick review of it because it does nicely wrap up the year. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of John Dennison and Rob Taylor to the December Benchmark. It is grand to have others do some writing.

Future Meeting Themes

For January, we will be making use of our own members expertise to put on an evening with some demonstrations of wood darkening, what glues are all about and several other interesting tidbits.

For February, we will be working on a nautical/marine theme and John Abercrombie will give us a hand understanding various boat building methods. It is interesting to note that there are a handful of members who are currently building boats of various descriptions.

For March, we will have one of the preeminent wood carvers on the Island, John Jarvis come to

pay a visit from Courtney.

In April, we will turn our attention back to furniture and design with another import, Peter Pierobon who is one of the elite of Canadian woodworking.

In May, we will open the doors early and have our famous Open Gallery meeting. Bring it in and let's have a look is the major theme – but we have a surprise in store also.

The hope from this programming is that we all learn something and be inspired to try another aspect of the wonderful world of working with wood. If you have an idea for a meeting keynote speaker, please give me a call.

Explorations in Wood – May 25 to Aug 21, 2004

Mike Kattler and the show committee are rolling along with our biannual juried show.

In January's meeting, we will hear from Mike on progress and key dates such as:

Drop Off Dates	May 17 and 18
Jurying	May 19
Judging	May 20
Grand Opening	May 27
Artists Symposium	June 6
Guild Meeting	June 8 (at the Gallery)

The committee has been particularly successful in getting the word out to small community newspapers and this has resulted in entries coming from far and wide. All things point to a super event – but remember the next key ingredient – it is your participation!

Changing of the Guard

As we plan ahead for the coming year, we want to

JANUARY MEETING

JANUARY 13th. 7:15 pm

Camosun College-Interurban Campus Carpentry Building

make you aware that there are several openings on the executive team. All of the current executive will be on the lookout for members who would like to step forward.

For my part, the executive has accepted my suggestion that I retain the keynote speaker program for one more year. The new president (perhaps you) will be able to count on this happening and it will be my way of providing continuity to the new guild executive.

As we talk with you about our opportunities and the future

of the guild, I hope you will consider assisting.

In closing, I am so pleased with the involvement of our new supporters (such as Colin Knecht and Max White) who are ever improving the guild!

Phil Makin

VP Report-Time for a new drummer

Typically the New Year brings change. It sure did in our household. Come July my family and I will be packing up and moving to the nation's capitol. I've been in the guild for exactly 3 years this month and have had a great time getting to know many of you. My association with the guild has brought me friendship and business contacts. Our sponsors have been instrumental in our business success. The information that I have acquired in the guild has broadened my skills and improved the quality of my work. It is great to be surrounded by such a large group of talented people.

For the last fifteen months or so the guild executive

has implemented a very interesting and diverse program. We have taken ideas for everyone who put them forth and worked hard to ensure that members get a really good bang for their buck. Membership has doubled in the last 12 months, wood recovery has surpassed everybody's expectations, the toy workshop put many smiles on kids faces at Christmas time, membership renewal and fees are much easier now, keynote speakers are very varied and planned well ahead of time, there have been two very successful shows in the past year and the best one to come is in June, turnout at the meetings is great, door prizes are diverse and well organized, show and tell is always great, the weekend clinics are well attended and diverse, and finally we start on time and provide an action packed meeting.

Behind each of the items just listed there are people, too many to be named, each contributing in their own way to the success of the guild. It is this cooperative contribution that gives the guild it's magic. Many seem to be under the impression that the guild is run by people who have been in for a long time. Au contraire. The majority of the key people started in their roles with less than a year's experience. For example: Dave, Phil and Harry were all elected to the executive within 6 months of joining the guild. Wayne runs the wood recovery program and he's only been here for three years. Colin, who gets all the door prizes, is a newcomer as is Max white who has been working with the sponsors. Young Brad Tikk and Lauren, the student reps are so new they still don't know what they got themselves into, but are doing a great job. Jesse had only come to a few meetings before we talked him into taking over the show and tell segment and that's hit. The toy workshop has a silent but extremely helpful elf who's only been around for a year or so. And the list goes on.

So as you read this thinking to yourself "I'm brand new so what do I have to offer?"

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IMPORTANT REMINDER

Membership dues for the 2004 season will be due at our January meeting, and if you recall, the new rate will be \$45 per year.

Harry Verstraaten

I say “as much as you are willing to put into it”. Come out and join the guild leadership, either on the executive, or in a role with one of the programs. Your contribution will make the guild a better place for everyone.

Dave Skinner

TOOL REVIEW

DeWalt Model DW746S 10” table saw.

The list price of this saw was \$1,700, which included a 52” side table. As a bonus the manufacturer also included a free option of either an outfeed table, or a mobile base. I chose the mobile base. The entire assembly arrived in four packages. The main body of the saw required two guys to handle – it was heavy! Once all was unpacked, assembly was clearly explained and was simple to put together.

The saw stands firmly on four stout legs, and is a mix between a cabinet and a contractor’s saw. But for the mobile base it would be very difficult to move due to its weight. If you decide to purchase this tool and might have the occasional need to move it, I strongly recommend getting the caster base. The base is easy to use, and is out of the way so you won’t find yourself kicking against it. The table is cast iron and well milled with a smooth and flat surface. It is curious that the side wings are stamped steel. Although the gauge is heavy, for a quality saw I would have expected the side wings to also have been cast iron. The side extension is made of MDF with a plastic finish. The steel wings, after assembly to the cast top, did not align perfectly parallel with the table, so I needed to insert shims to tip one side up so they would lay flat with the table.

The on-off switch is a beauty. It’s large and easily

accessed. It is placed so that a simple nudge with the knee will shut the machine off. Another selling point was the left-tilting blade. When ripping bevels, the wood rides atop the blade, with less chance of kickback than if the wood is pinched under the blade as on a right-tilting saw. The turning wheels for both height and angle adjustments are easy to operate, with ample space between the table overhang and the handles.

The fence has a cam-action locking mechanism that holds the fence firmly and squarely in place. It slides easily along the rails. The measurement gradations are easy to read, and are simply adjusted for various kerf widths. The scale extends to the left of the saw for fence positions on that side of the blade.

Changing the blade is a bit difficult due to the dust collection shroud that extends from below the blade to mid-blade. I don’t have big hands and I still find it cumbersome to work the nut and washer without accidentally letting either fall down the chute. Some trimming of the plastic shroud might be in order for those who have bigger paws. The chute leads to a 2 ½” connection and 90 degree bend for the dust collection hose. I found offcuts got jammed in the tight corner of the bend, and eventually it got completely plugged. I remedied this by taking the bend off and connecting the hose straight in.

The 1 ¾ HP motor (15 amp, 115V that can be wired to 230V) runs very smoothly and quietly. I noticed no slowdown in blade speed when ripping 2” eastern maple; the power is quite adequate. There is absolutely no shake or vibration – none should be expected with such a heavy saw. All-in-all this saw has been fairly well engineered and covers some details that cannot be found in other contractor’s saws. The price is higher than other saws in its line, but my opinion is that the money is well spent for the quality and for the additional features.

Harry Verstraaten

EDITOR’S NOTE

We’re waiting to receive REAL LIFE & SHOP tested tool reviews, warnings and/or fine points that can only be discovered by only using a tool after some period of time. It doesn’t have to be long, very detailed or scientific, just your own experiences. Please e-mail your submissions to “sakman@shaw.ca” address.

***** **FOR SALE** *****

OUR SPONSORS

Robland X31 Combi. Tablesaw, planer, jointer, mortiser and shaper all in one. Great for small space. Wired 220V. Excellent condition. 3,5 years old. Lots of extras. \$8,000 obo Call **Grant Parker 250-738-0111** pardy@pacificcoast.net

WANTED- A bandsaw capable of resawing min. of 6". Call **Gerry Reimer 479-4145**

80's model Delta 14" Bandsaw with new tires, Iturra tension spring, mobile base, link belt w/2hp motor, cast pulleys and all ball-bearing guides. 6 brand new (in sealed packages) Tuff-Tooth blades and 5/8" Lennox resaw (\$135) and various used blades. \$950.-
 ALSO: **6"x48" Belt sander** \$225.-
 Call **HC Sakman (Chico) @ 721-4522**

SHOPSMITH MK V w/ ACCESSORIES + the following: 11"Band Saw, plus blade and coupling, 4"Jointer plus spare knives, Moulder and two sets of blade and table insert, Lathe Faceplate and numerous Lathe Chisels, Dado, Retractable Casters, Front table extension, Rubber Bonded Abrasive Wheel, (honing chisels). Extra saw blades 8" and 10", rip, cross-cut, plywood, Extra Arbors, Owner's Manual, Portable metal stand, on casters for band-saw and jointer and Numerous Hands On Plans, (for Shopsmith) Call **Graham at 388-5804** \$1,500. complete

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please submit your sale and/or wanted ads via e-mail to "sakman@shaw.ca" or by snail-mail to:

**HC Sakman
 4239 Lynnfield Cr.
 Victoria,BC
 V8N-5C8**

Or handed over your written ad at the guild meeting. No oral requests will be fulfilled.

Thank You. *HC Sakman*

Orders will be in for the January meeting. Cash or cheque are accepted.

T-shirts M,L XL	\$ 12.25
T-shirts XXL,XXXL	\$ 14.00
Grey Crew neck M,L,XL	\$41.00
XXL,XXXL	\$43.25
Blue Collared M,L,XL	\$44.25
XXL,XXXL	\$46.75

See Gordon Thompson at the meeting.

Show your appreciation for the following companies which support the Guild by membership discounts.

- Aarrow Safety Inc.**
- Altech Machining**
- Columbia Fire & Safety LTD.** (10% off Card Required!)
- Island Imports**
- Island Saw & Tool Co.**
- Mother Computers** (See Tony Scott, Card Required!)
- PJ White Hardwoods LTD.**
- Reimer Hardwoods LTD.**
- Richelieu Panel Products**
- Skookum Tools LTD.**
- Slegg Lumber LTD.**
- Tools'n Space Woodworking**
- Troy Electric Sales & Service**
- Victoria Specialty Hardware LTD.**
- West Wind Hardwoods Inc.**

EXECUTIVE:

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- VP Education**Dave Skinner.....391-0006dave.skinner@shaw.ca
- VP Membership..**Harry Verstraaten.....479-7717harryv@bullockbaur.ca
- Treasurer.....**Steve Harvey.....478-2395s.harvey@shaw.ca
- Past President.....**Scott Reid.....478-8178scottyreid@shaw.ca

COMMITTEE & PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS:

- S&T/ Monthly Clinics – Dave Skinner 391-0006 dave_skinner@shaw.ca
- Toy Workshop Project – Howard Rossiter 656-3306
- Keynote Speaker Committee— Phil Makin 592-4053 pmakin@shaw.ca
- Show Committee – Mike Kattler 592-4938
- Library Committee – Ed Krakowski 656-6727 edshop@shaw.ca & Kiwi Stanners
- Show & Tell Committee—Jesse Williams 250-246 9774 jovahn77@hotmail.com
- Great Guild Project – Harry Verstraaten 479-7717 harryv@bullockbaur.ca
- Wood Recovery Committee – Wayne Holmes 479 4694 wgholmes@pacificcoast.net
- Membership Database Manager– Larry Grainger 383-1215 lgrainger@telus.net
- Guild Merchandise Committee - Gordon Thompson 655-1318
- Door Prize Coordinator - Colin Knecht 727-2662 knecht@shaw.ca
- Sponsor Liason - Max White 381- 2378 maxwell@pacificcoast.net
- STUDENT LIASON REPS – CAMOSUN COLLEGE:**
- Belmont High - Brad Tikk 391-1992
- NEWSLETTER:** HC "Chico" Sakman 721-4522 sakman@shaw.ca