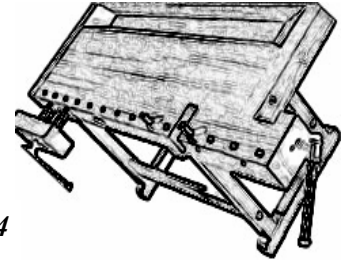


# BENCHMARK



*Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild*

*Issue: MARCH 2004*

## Presidents Report

### **Wood and Organization Go Together**

We hope you learned something in your shop this month and along with that received some satisfaction from your endeavors. This month, I learned at least a couple of great little tips from other guild members when I needed some help. Another nice reason for being part of the group.

### **Membership Does Have It's Privileges**

Our membership system is running smoothly, with our membership period from January to December. It is unfortunate that with all the communications and reminders, at the time of writing, we had nearly 60 members who have not signed up. We hope that we will have most of them signed up before our meeting and ask that you help us by signing up when you see or hear the first notice.

### **Keynote Review – Small Boats and More**

Our February meeting was an incredible happening. Thanks to a team of gifted presenters, lead by John Abercrombie, we had a great evening of boats for all.

John was ably supported by Brian Kemper and Len Barnes in the keynote section and together we received the gift of expert information as well as Len's much appreciated "stuff that goes wrong" input. As someone who has made a few switch and glue boats, I loved the picture of the boat with big bubbles showing up all over the place.

And there were boats and more boats. I believe with about a dozen boats, our members and guests saw the results and this was a true show and tell.

We received a living legacy of information which is

making it to the web site as I write this. If you want to build a boat, take a look at the web site – you will find everything from kits to ideas and more. Our presenters have all said that they are there as a resource for all of you. If you would like to discuss a boat project, give any of them a call.

I also want to thank Ken Guenter for his able assistance in getting our presentation equipment going. I believe Dave Skinner had a little to do with this as well – thanks guys.

### **You Can Hear Us– Scotty Did It**

The next generation of our public address system was unveiled last meeting. Reviews were many and every one was favorable. After many years of painful issues with hearing people, we made the grade and more. The person who has been on the job of developing our incredible system (multiple mikes, remote mikes and round sound) is Scotty Reid. He has just stayed the course and taken us along for the ride. Each month Scotty also packs the system to the meetings, unpacks and sets up and then does the reverse just for us. Our system is a low cost marvel and a gift from Scotty. How about a big thanks next time you see him?

### **Show and Tell – Show for All**

Show and tell for February was awesome and inspiring. On behalf of Jesse Williams our coordinator, we all say thanks for your contributions. This partial list is just a few of what was presented.

- Paul Starita brought one of his dining room chairs
- Paul Gort, one of the camosun students had a small stool made of giant pills
- One of the new members brought the head

## MARCH MEETING

MARCH 9th. 7:15 pm

Camosun College-Interurban Campus Carpentry Building

of a carousel horse he was making (Reminder to this person – bring it back for March meeting our theme is carving!)

- Unnamed member who brought in “quick” breakdown picnic table

Can we do it again in March, sure we can! Remember our May meeting is a show and tell Open House – bring something in (no excuses, eh?) and remember our May theme which is Musical May, so everything is welcome and we will do a little extra in the music department.

### **Keynote March – Carving and You – Why Not Get Started**

One of the tasks of the guild is opening doors for our members in new skills and our guest John Jarvis from Nanoose Bay will help you understand the basics of carving. He comes from a woodworking family, his father was a carpenter and in 1984 he picked up his first carving knife. Nature figures is his specialty and you won't believe the work he does mostly with one knife – got to love that. John has attended carving world championships in the past and loves to see and compete with the very best so he can stay sharp (pun intended).

John is a little mixed up because you will see what he thinks is his best work and I know Dan Lubberts will be impressed (any guesses?). We want to make this a round table with lots of questions, so bring them in and bring a show and tell item with a carving theme.

John is the president of the Vancouver Island Woodcarvers Club and he'll bring us up to date on their activities which include a super after school program for kids.

### **LEIGH D24 DOVETAIL JIG REVIEW**

Upon opening the box, you will find that the model number D24 Leigh Jig requires some minor assembly. No special tools are needed for this other than an adjustable wrench. There are a number of small parts, so be sure to check that none are missing.

The large manual features pictures and descriptive text that make the calibration, and first time use somewhat easier than expected. Reviewing the manual and familiarizing yourself with the symbols would be advisable. While a video is offered, I chose not to purchase it. I don't have a VCR down in my shop. I would rather have the ability to flip pages back and forth while working on the jig.

For adjusting the jig, Leigh has included a special screwdriver and wrench. Also included are a #80, dovetail bit, and a #140 straight bit. Both of these are 1/4" shank. Note: You will need to have a 7/16" guide bushing for your router in order to use this jig.

Once the assembly is out of the way, you will probably want to semi-permanently mount the jig to a 8" wide x 36" long x 3/4" thick piece of hardwood using the (2) 1/4"-20 x 4" long toilet bolts that are supplied. The heads of these will slide into a groove machined into the bottom of the jig. Once this is done, you can attach the jig to your new hardwood support base. This will give you a nice wide surface to clamp to your workbench. The manual also has

### **SAWMILL TOUR**

We are looking for about 20 people that would be interested in seeing some local mills. On Saturday morning April 24<sup>th</sup> we will see the new bandsaw mill at the South End of Shawnigan Lake in action. Brand new in February, this saw cuts both coming and going. See this saw in action and see the many local woods cut to your specs at really reasonable prices.

If you are interested Call Steve Harvey at 478-2395

plans for a dovetailed (what else) box that you can mount the jig to. This would raise the jig up off of the workbench to a more manageable level.

Many of you have voiced concerns about the learning curve associated with this machine. I have to tell you, it is not as bad as all that. The Leigh D24 did come with a large user's manual which, I admit is somewhat daunting to look at. Usually it takes me a great deal of self-control to sit down and read the directions (I am not the most patient person in the world). I like to pick up a power tool and just start using it. But I managed to take my time as read through the first part of the manual and proceed with setting up the jig.

To calibrate the jig for the first time, you will need (2) 6" x 8" x 3/4" square flat pieces of wood. With these, you can set the clamps to the correct pressure, adjust the positioning hardware, and set the fingers in place. You will also need a 6" x 23" x 3/4" piece of hardwood to use as a spacer when setting up the jig. Be sure to read and follow the directions completely. While this entire operation doesn't take long, it is an important step.

Once you completed calibrating the jig, the directions will walk you through a simple dovetailing procedure. I managed to actually cut a set of near perfect dovetails the first time out!

I was very impressed with the ease of adjustment of the keys/fingers and the jig's ability to switch from routing tails to pins (or vice versa).

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I would most heartily recommend this jig to all here. It's versatility may lead you to believe it is too hard to learn to use. But I found this not to be the case. If I can manage near perfect dovetails on my first trial run, I believe anyone could!

D.C.

### NEXT REVIEW:

### **BOSCH 1617EVS-PK ROUTER**

### SHOP CLINICS

Due to an absolutely chaotic schedule, I have been unable to confirm the March clinic at the time of the Benchmark publication. We will hopefully be having a clinic on introductory turning. Please see me at the guild meeting or email me at [dave.skinner@shaw.ca](mailto:dave.skinner@shaw.ca) if you are interested in attending this clinic.

### VIWWG WELCOMES *the following new members:*

**Karl Jones**, Tony Nesbitt, **Mike Chandler**, Steve Werner, **Derek Wulff**, Tony Grove, **Irv Boichuk**, Roger Tinney, **Paul Gort**, Raymond Conner, **Robert Taylor**, Murphy Pottage, **Allan Brunt**, **David Wright**, Viggo Erichsen, **John Brunelle**, Craig Darling, **Sean Mahoney**, Christopher Hudgins, Jack Fisher

### 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 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.*

*We also welcome your requests on specific brand/model tool that you may want to obtain more information about it. This will also make the review writers' job easier. Any tool, any make and model. We would like to hear from you! Thanks!*

Hikmet C. Sakman

\*\*\*\*\* **FOR SALE** \*\*\*\*\*

**Robland X31** Combi. Tablesaw, planer, jointer, mortiser and shaper all in one. Great for small space. 3 3hp motors wired 220V. Excellent condition. 3,5 years old. Lots of extras. \$7,000 Call **Grant Parker @ 250-738-0111** [parady@pacificcoast.net](mailto:parady@pacificcoast.net)

**DeWalt 733** 12-1/2" planer; 1 1/2 years old, excellent condition; 4" dust chute adapter; 3 sets of knives; mobile base. \$350. Call **Carl Duguay 888-5067**

**6" Jointer**, 1HP Delco 14" bandsaw, Bench Drill Press, 2HP Busy Bee Planer, Contractor Saw with 1-1/2 HP Baldor Motor + numerous bench & hand tools. Call **Mrs Mason @ 655-5264**

**Anti-fatigue floor mat** Industrial quality, high density. 7 ft X 4 ft X 3/4 inch. Perfect for preventing back and leg pain/fatigue when standing on concrete or hard surface floors, such as a workshop. Paid \$125.00 will sell for \$60. Excellent condition - **Call 544-1708.**

**Wood Recovery group Wood sale**

We still have some douglas fir which is good for construction. We are asking \$0.75 per board foot

There is also some Atlas Cedar, also good for outdoor construction. The cedar is cut various dimensions like 6 x 6, 4x 4, 4 x 6, etc. This is going for \$0.50 per board foot.

For turners we have about 10 rounds of spalted burled maple. These are expected to go for \$5. To \$15 per piece. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these woods. They will be on display at the next meeting. **Wayne Holmes [wgholmes@shaw.ca](mailto:wgholmes@shaw.ca) or 479 4694.**

**Wood-Mizer DH4000** dry kiln kit. C/w controls, fans for drying lumber. 2 - 4000 Bd. ft. capacity, 220V, Used 8 mos. \$4800 Call **250-558-6807**

T-shirt orders are IN! 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 meetings.

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