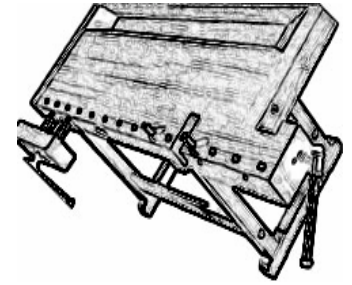


BENCHMARK



Newsletter of the Vancouver Island Woodworkers' Guild

Issue: MAY 2004

Visit us @ www.viwg.com

Presidents Report – Big Open House

For the May meeting, the theme is “Show us Something, eh?” We are having our giant Open House. That’s right. Got something you made, want to sell, trade or give away? Bring it in! It will add to the fun.

We’ll run it like a big garage sale – lots of time for moving around learning and taking it all in.

We also have some special musical guests for your entertainment and members of the Victoria Shipbuilder’s Model Society and their amazing models will be joining us.

If you have a question on something artisan related issue you will have the chance to ask it throughout the evening. One consideration is having a way to transport your item to the shop – think about a dolly or some way that makes it easy for you to get it back and forth.

Last meeting was our first with the now famous folding chairs. They are a charm and for our May meeting, there will still be some announcements and mini presentations so do it again – Bring a Chair! Don’t forget about the folding chair making contest!

Keynote Review - Peter Pierobon

“A successful object for me is one that combines all of the elements of good design, a respect for the material, exquisite execution and is conceptually well conceived (Peter Pierobon)”

We were indeed in awe and rightly so with our keynote in April. Many positive comments were received and Peter is a great example of how our growing guild can build and support a keynote speaker component to our program. In the April Benchmark, we told you about some of Peter’s accomplishments (pieces in Smithsonian, Philadelphia Museum of Art, awards such as National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Canada Council Fellowships) and his education with Wendell Castle.

But these only tell a small bit of the real story. We all found out that Peter is a highly skilled technical woodworker in the realm of furniture as art and sculpture. The guild executive and any who talked to him during the meeting found him to also be a “real” person very approachable and down to earth.

Peter’s creativity and the influence of his environment came out as major factors in his work. And as he said – I still work six days a week, ten hours a day – that’s what it takes.

I would also like to thank Wayne Holmes for educating Peter on our Wood Recovery program after his presentation. Peter had expressed an interest in this aspect of the guild and Wayne was there to take care of it.

For more information and pictures on Peter’s work, visit www.guild.com/artist/563.html

Executive Elections in June

Don’t forget our June elections for the guild executive. We will be at the Maltwood Gallery for this meeting and we ask you to consider running for one of the positions of: President, VP Membership, VP Education and Treasurer. We will be making an announcement at the May meeting of any committee positions that will need to be filled.

New and old members (young and old in age also) are most welcome and we don’t view any job as requiring a prerequisite – other than enthusiasm and interest.

Web News

Thanks to the hard work of a small team we are making progress towards having a very nice tool for our members. If you go to the web site, and click on About VIWG, you will see a map of how to find us at Camosun and our membership form is now available online. Thanks to Brian Vallee, John Porter and Rob Blondeau for their contributions.

What does this mean to our members? Well if someone asks about us, just tell them to visit us at www.viwg.com. for the whole story. If they want to know how to join, tell them to visit us at www.viwg.com – they can print the membership form, fill it out and mail it to the guild’s PO box. The web site is working for us all.

More is planned and thanks to John Porter, we are currently looking at providing a simple online membership form which will make it easier for our VP Membership and Database Administration team.

We still need a web coordinator. We believe this role will take

MAY MEETING

MAY 11th. 7:15 pm

Camosun College-Interurban Campus Carpentry Building

about eight hours a month and you would be the chair of the web committee meetings to review direction for the web site, and organize web content events. We are also looking for another web content person to work with Rob Blondeau to take responsibility for keeping specific areas of the web current plus a little writing, photography and research.

Calendar of Events

We present the Guild's educational, and meeting plans. We attempt to provide dates on future events of interest to Guild members. If you have event information, please contact Chico Sakman to arrange for publication.

Explorations In Wood Show May 25 – August 12 2004!
 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 Maltwood Gallery)
 Contact: Show Chairperson Mike Kattler 592-4938

Great Guild Project
 ShowDown Table Building for BC Blind Sports, contact Phil Makin May/June 592.4053

Continuing Meetings (Held Monthly)

Open to any interested guild member. Call to confirm or to have an item added to the agenda.

Executive/Committee Chairs
 Tuesday week following Guild Meeting, contact Phil Makin 592-4053

Show Committee
 First Tuesday of the Month, contact Mike Kattler 592-4938

Education Clinics for Members

Times, locations and requirements vary, normally held the Saturday after Guild meeting
 May Clinic – To Be Announced
 June Clinic – Tool Building 101 with Mat Ashton
 Saturday June 12, 9am Cost \$10. per member payable to the instructor

Woodworkers Most Advanced Tool By Colin Knecht ... "The Door Prize Guy"

"They sure don't build 'em like they used to" ... I often hear that statement and just as often my response is "thank goodness!". Just because something is old, does not necessarily mean it is well made. Technology has changed almost everything in our lives, and woodworking is no exception. When I see the quality of work being turned out by many of "today's" woodworkers, it's evident they are every bit as capable as woodworkers from the past.

Today we have tools, joinery, glues and finishes that weren't even conceived of a few decades ago. Woodworkers today have the choice of using traditional woodworking techniques or high-tech versions depending on the outcome they are looking for. The latest tool for many woodworkers is one most would have never dreamt of using even a few years ago ... it's called the Internet. The Internet is a place filled with information on woodworking tools, techniques, ideas, plans and products. It is a massive storage area that can reveal everything from new tools to revived techniques from the past, and it's all driven by people who love woodworking and are willing to share their time and expertise.

Many woodworkers will agree that one of the real problems with the Internet is there can be too much information so how do find what you need without spending all your time "surfing" rather than "sawing". The purpose behind building www.woodworkweb.com was to make a single web site that could be used as a main resource for woodworkers. A place where woodworkers could find information on tools and techniques, and also a place where they could find materials and supplies and plans.

Woodworkweb.com is know as a "Community" web site because it's members can add content to the web site themselves. Many members have submitted articles, pictures and helped many other woodworkers by answering questions in the Forums. Most of the features on woodworkweb can be used by anyone surfing the net, but for those looking for more advanced usage, there is a (free) membership requirement. The reason only members can add content is so that we can monitor what content is being posted, and in rare events remove items that may be inappropriate. Membership to the web site is Free, so anyone can join and in so doing receive extra benefits that non-members don't receive like ... the ability to post pictures of the project they are working or participate in the Forums and help other woodworkers or even ask ques-

tions of other woodworkers to find out special techniques.

Another benefit of Members is the Newsletter that is sent by email twice per month. Currently there are over 750 Woodworkweb Members who receive the Newsletter and to-date, not one person has asked to be removed from the mailing list. I guess we must be doing something right. Our goal in creating a Newsletter is to make it informative and to announce new tools and other information that might otherwise take months to filter down to individual woodworkers

So if you want to spend more time sawing, gluing and planing and less time trying to find information on the Internet, use the resources at www.woodworkweb.com and if your really want to get value, become a member, its free and you will receive special considerations that non-members don't get ... and most important of all, you will get to share your knowledge and techniques with others. Check us out ... you won't be disappointed.

Thanks, Craig!

I would like to pass on a big "Thank You" to Craig Sharp of Island Saw.

I have purchased a jointer, router, dust collector, orbital sander, and a jigsaw from Island Saw. Each time I went into the shop, Craig was there to nudge me away from a potential purchase that I realize (in hindsight) would have been way overkill for what I wanted to do, or he pointed out other models that had a better price or better/easier-to-use features.

Usually service like this comes at a price, the salesman usually tries to get you to move up a model from what you were originally looking for. In Craig's case, that couldn't be farther from the truth. In only one case did I purchase something more expensive than what I had intended (I set my mind on something and there was no changing it). In all the other cases, he guided me to less expensive products (the Bosch 1617EVS router for example).

I want to say thank you for a job well done. Customer service is something that I really believe is the most important part of a store, and Craig has shown me what good customer service is.

Rob Blondeau

DeWALT 621 PLUNGE ROUTER REVIEW

This little power packed plunge router has the best power-to-weight ratio of ALL other routers in the market. This is a quite unique router with its asymmetrical plunge posts and side knob that combines plunge lock/release in one handle.



The other handle has a push/release on switch with lock for continuous use. At first both side handles seems very unconventional, but it's actually very ergonomic and they become second nature after using it for a short period of time. Flat sided base with two round ends offer a vast amounts of jiggling possibilities. The small size of its base fits into all kinds of small places but it also brings the downside of this router. Despite being very lightweight, small footprint of its base makes this router somewhat tippy. To overcome this problem, a larger sub-base is a must and works very well.

One of the asymmetrical posts function as dust extraction and when it's hooked up to a vacuum it works very well, especially when you're cutting blind mortises, which would choke with chips in seconds otherwise.

This router has 12 Amp power, variable speed and smooth, vibration free operation. It comes with sophisticated 1/4" and 1/2" collets. (As many other European routers, hence this one is made in Italy.) Additionally, a very convenient, easy to reset and read depth gauge with micro adjustment completes the picture of an excellent router to be used day in and day out.

HC "Chico" Sakman

CLASSIFIEDS**OUR SPONSORS**

10" Skil mitre saw, \$50 obo
Free for pickup: Assorted 3/8" oak panels and oak panel molding (all pre-finished)
Call **Harry at 479-7717**

DeWalt 733 12-1/2" planer w/ 3 sets of knives; \$200. 3CFM Rotary Vane Heavy Duty Vacuum pump \$120
Call **HC "Chico" Sakman @721-4522**

Freud router table w/fence \$200
Call **Jason Good @ 882-5100**

WESTERN MAPLE for sale 2x8, 2x10 from Guild wood recovery (2001), about 250 FBM @\$1 per board foot.
Call **John Dennison @595-5582**

TOOLS'n SPACE WOODWORKING has got the new shipment of **Lie-Nielsen** handplanes and other new fine woodworking tools.
Call **383-9600 338 Catherine Street**

Live in studio and workshop available located in Vic West, 3 blocks from Spinnakers on William St. **700 sq.ft.** workshop with **300sq ft** living space which includes kitchen, shower, and loft bed. The studio is well lit with 2 large windows, faces south, and has hardwood floor. The workshop is "L" shaped with 2 entrances. **Rent is \$700.** and includes hydro and a parking spot. Both are on second floor of 2 story building. Great opportunity for someone who wants to run a business and live at the same location for a very reasonable rent. I am moving my woodworking business to the Cowichan Bay area. Space available **July 1st** and possibly earlier.
Call **Rick at 381-1308**

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**
pardy@pacificcoast.net

Wood Recovery group Wood sale:
Wayne Holmes wgholmes@shaw.ca or 479 4694.

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.

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