



Upcoming meetings
Dec 8 Xmas Party

Newsletter December 2005 Rocky Mountain Woodturners

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Next Meeting

Christmas Party
Saturday, December 3, 2005
6:00 p.m. Pot Luck
Bring a Dish to share
Club will provide beverages.

Directions to 619 4th Street, Berthoud, CO. (above the Berthoud Laundry and Jones Plumbing)

Get to Berthoud off I-25 via route 56 or 287.

Directions from Junction of 56 and 287

Go WEST (toward the mountains if it were daylight and you could see them) to 4th Street.

Go NORTH 1 ½ blocks.

619 is on the WEST side of the street.

There is an **OWL** and a **Square Dance Symbol** on the door and probably a RMWT sign.

(MAPQUEST will give you a picture) If you are totally lost, call 970.689.2545

Elections

Election of Rocky Mountain Woodturners officers for 2006 will be at the December meeting. There will be a new group of officers, as each of the present ones expressed their intention to complete their tenure.

Nominations will be made from the floor and club members will vote to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Other club leaders who are Chairpersons of committees, Program and Symposium chairs, are appointed by the Officers.

Alan Lacer On the Skew

Alan Lacer, one of America's most wanted woodturners, came to Ft. Collins review the skew with Rocky Mountain Woodturners. A much sought after demonstrator and teacher, reformed woodcarver and skew enthusiast, Alan has shown his craft in 44 of the 50 United States and several other countries. His current projects are producing informational/historical woodturning videos. He made sure we knew the Vikings were good turners – even without motors and High Speed Steel.

The Author of the books and videos, The Skew Chisel and The Son of Skew, demonstrated to a group of 47 enthusiastic Rocky Mountain Woodturners. Citing the history, construction and operation of one of the oldest turning tools, Alan led the group through the finer points of using it. (A great deal easier to watch than to write about it later – editor's comment)

First, Lacer redefined *sharp*. One end of the spectrum is dull. All present knew about several levels of dull. On the other end of dull is *totally sharp*. Defined: your finger will begin to bleed when the edge gets within ¼ “. In between these extremes are: *sort of dull*; *sort of sharp*; *sharp*; *razor sharp*; *scary sharp* and *nasty sharp*. This writer confesses that he only knew up to *sharp* and maybe *razor sharp*.

Alan Lacer accomplishes *nasty sharp* by: using a 1725 rpm 80-120 grit stone grinding a bevel 1.5 times the thickness of the skew. The radius of the stone will leave a discernable hollow grind. This is then put on a homemade 8” wheel of MDF (medium density fiberboard) groomed with jewelers rouge or polishing compound. *Scary*, and possibly with practice, *nasty sharp*, may be achieved.

A confessed “honer”, Alan Lacer encourages others to consider becoming *honors*. On HSS steel tools, a diamond hone is necessary. Always using a 2-point contact (edge and bevel shoulder) gently stroke the edge. This technique, done often, will save you many trips to the grinder. Alan said he had been on the road doing demos in three states over 10 days and had not needed to go to the grinder. And his skew seemed to remain *scary* to *nasty sharp* every time anyone had a chance to check.

One of Lacer’s techniques to help beginners get started with the skew (and help the previously frightened turners) was to mount a piece of wood between centers using a cup center in the head-stock (in place of a spur drive). He sharpens the cup center on the grinder and cuts three scallops in the edge with a chain-saw file. The turner adjusts the pressure on the tail-stock until the wood spins to turning speed. Mounting the wood this way lets the wood stop in case of a bad “catch,” thus averting the trauma of the skew digging into the wood, throwing the wood off the lathe and causing the skipping of several heartbeats. (Not to mention bruises and uttered expletives.)

In the course of the demo, Alan made several micro tops (1/2” to 3/4”) with an 1.5” skew. Impressive. You will need to borrow (or purchase) his video or DVD to SEE how he does it.

In the Saturday, all-day workshop, Alan Lacer went deeper into the use of the skew and also demonstrated how to make a hook hollowing tool for end-grain. i.e. goblets and vases. He did this with 6”x 3/8” drill rod, MAP gas, a pair of pliers, olive oil, water and a grinder. Doable in any shop where you can use the bottle gas torch without igniting the sawdust and burning your shop down. A good day with Alan Lacer. 26 club members participated.

The Symposium Report for 2005

Mark Kurzmack, Symposium Chair, reported that a record 172 persons had registered for the 2005 Symposium. Persons from 15 states from New York to California were represented. More people from Colorado attended this year. \$2,500 above expenses was reported. This will help buy additional audio-visual equipment and supplies for the future.

Comments from participants and club members –
Very good Symposium! Thank you Mark for your

leadership. Thanks to all the club members who gave of their time and energy to various aspects of the Symposium – set up and clean up and camera operation – and especially to those who assisted with the Hands-On-Learning Center, the Instant Gallery and the Information table.

The Saturday night banquet went very well. Good menu. The Ranch First National Bank Exhibition Hall is a wonderful venue for the Symposium. Only negative was occasional noise level distraction from noisy demos.

Next year the symposium will be held in the East Hall of the same building. The room is the same size with the addition: there are six classrooms where Demos can be held and will contain much of the noise interference. **2006 Symposium will be great – again!**

Dues and Membership Cards

A proposal to raise dues to \$35 a year (\$50 per family) was approved by club vote. The extra income will be used to bring in guest demonstrators and all-day Saturday workshops. This will make \$2,500 available for the Program Chair to bring in talented outside demonstrators three or four times a year.

Membership will also get you 10% discount at several turning supply places. See Lee Whiteside, secretary.

Club News

Club determined that it would share its mailing list with Klingspor (an abrasive supply business) with the understanding the list would not be loaned, shared or sold to anyone else.

The Board has tabled the possibility of moving meetings to Sears-Trostel building. The reconfiguration of the present room for meetings has made the room more “user friendly” for seeing and hearing by the club for demonstrations and meetings.

In Memorium

Duane Fisher, one of the original club members died in October. Duane is remembered for his segmented turnings with branding iron logos.

Empty Bowl Project: Mike McCarthy, a Ft. Collins High School Art Teacher, invited the club members to donate turnings for an auction to support the Larimer County Food Pantry. The event will take place in late February. The event is nine years old. The art class makes ceramic bowl that are served full of soup to 450 persons who pay \$45 a place at the table at the Hilton. All proceeds go to the Food Bank.

February 23,2006 is the date set for the "EMPTY BOWLS PROJECT"

If you are interested in donating a bowl or bowls for this project, please bring your bowls to the Feb. 9th meeting or give me a call at 567-2199-cell or 484-3914-home and I will gladly pick it up at your residence.

Thanks again for your donation to help the Larimer County Food Bank. These bowls do not have to be gallery pieces.

Thanks again
Dick Navratil

Library Enhancements

The club members decided to up grade the Turners Library by changing to DVD. Books, tapes and VCR's are available to club members at each meeting.

Bruce Cohen is moving his business from Boulder to Erie and has some tools and wood to sell. Call Bruce if you are interested in what he has left. 303.440.4838

Kudos to Dave Wilson. Thanks for fixing the starting capacitor on the club's Delta Midi Lathe. If you have that problem with yours, it is now easily a "do it yourself" project. Just replace the inexpensive unit on the back of the motor. Also, thanks for putting in the light bulbs above the demo area in the meeting room.



The Shop **Mouse Says:**

When everything is coming your way, you are in the wrong lane. .. **or just got the mother of all catches with your skew.**

Learn from the best...

Our Club is becoming known around the nation because we have some of the best turners, nationally known demonstrators and best teachers of **Basic Turning, Intermediate, and Advanced and Specialty Turning** right here in our own back yard.

Lee Carter operates the **Rocky Mountain School of Woodturning** in La Porte. He offers classes in Basics, Intermediate and Advanced.

A new schedule will be in the Jan Newsletter.

Call Lee Carter at 970.221.4382 to sign up or have him answer any questions.

e-mail LLJTC4X4149@CS.COM

Trent Bosch Woodturning in Ft. Collins offers three-day sessions of non-stop turning and carving classes.

Call Trent Bosch at 970.568.3299

E-mail trentbosch@yahoo.com

Curt Theobald offers three-day workshops in **Segmented Woodturning** in his studio in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming.

Call Curt Theobald at 307.245.3310

E-mail cwtheobald@wyoming.com

Wood Suppliers

10% Guild discount at the following:

The Wood Emporium
618 N Garfield Ave Loveland, Co 80537

Sears Trostel
1500 Riverside Ave Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Rockler's in Denver – You have to show your membership card.

Kevin Kyhl also sells hardwood and turning stock in Ft. Collins once a month. You can email him at: kyhlwood@direcway.com to get on the notification list of when he will be in town. He will give us a 15% discount on turning stock. Just mention that you are with the RMWT and he'll take care of you.

Dan Bailey has bowl blanks for sale all roughed out, dried and ready to turn. He also has access to CA glue that is less expensive than other sources. Call Dan 970.482.1604

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