

MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Saturday March 13, 2004

TIME: 10:00AM, coffee and donuts at 9:30AM.

PLACE: James Wood Works on the third floor of the R. J. Casey Industrial Park at Columbus & Preble Avenues (kitty-corner to UPS on Beaver Avenue) on Pittsburgh's North Side.

SUBJECT: Sharpening

THIS MEETING

Our friends at Woodcraft (The Pointe at Robinson Towne Center) have offered to have their sharpening expert, Dick Darin, present a program for us on sharpening. Dick will discuss and demonstrate a variety of topics related to sharpening straight-edged tools like chisels and plane irons. He will start with an overview of sharpening geometry and terminology, and then review both mechanical (Makita, Tormek and Veritas) and manual sharpening systems (sandpaper/glass, oilstones, water stones, and diamond stones), discussing the pros and cons of each. A demonstration of many of these methods will be provided as well as some opportunity for hands-on experimentation. Dick is also a hand tool aficionado and will pepper his talk with references to hand tool design evolution so that we can gain a better understanding of how our current-day tools came to be.

SAWDUST

Some personal history that might be helpful. My friend Pat and I shared our dreams of the perfect wood shop. We finally agreed that the only way to make our dream come true was to combine our assets, because we weren't going to accomplish what we wanted individually. Pat had the ideal location so he provided the 40 x 32 foot building. I supplied all the machinery and materials. That was in 1995. We've added sheds and another two storey 24 x 24 foot building in 1998. We plan more in the next couple of years. Was a partnership a good

idea, and a practical solution for translating our dreams into reality? Well, we have the facilities we wanted and on some of these cold nights we sit by the wood stove drinking beer and sharing new dreams.

-- Felix Sylvius

A WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

Craig Smith is currently teaching a class in Windsor Chairmaking at Max Peterson's shop in Bethel Park. Max's shop is in an industrial park built on the site of the abandoned Coverdale Mine. The houses of the company town still look down on the site from a nearby hill. Behind Max's shop are traces of red-dog from a bony pile that has been hauled away to pave country lanes and driveways. One can imagine that when Max works late, when he finally turns off the machinery and the lights and walks out to his car, he can faintly hear the rattle of mine cars slowly going up the tippie, or feel the tremor of blasting three hundred feet below.

The class is about three quarters of the way through building a chair. They have finished the components and are drilling the seats in preparation for assembly. This is the most critical step, and why I am here. I took Michael Dunbar's course six or eight years ago, and in addition to the chair I made in the class, I have the makings for several more. Craig is letting me sit in on these classes to refresh my memory of this tricky part of the process. Craig has a knack for teaching, and I'm sure everyone will walk out with a chair.

One added bonus for courses at Max's shop is that his wife Linda usually sends along a treat like cake, cookies or fresh strawberries.

SQUIBS

Today's mail brought another batch of squibs that Clarence Wolf cut from the North Hills Green Sheet. This is the best so far:

A machinist in North Tyneside, England accidentally cut off part of his thumb while on the job. Later, as he was demonstrating to his bosses what had happened, he cut off part of a finger.

.....
TO MENTOR OR NOT TO MENTOR -- THAT IS THE QUESTION!

So far Bill James--veneering, John Bridges--wooden boat building, Martin Stolpe--turning trees into lumber, have committed themselves to mentoring club members in the above subjects. Club members must arrange with their chosen mentor the details of their training. Please keep in mind that mentors are teachers who will willingly share their knowledge and skills with you if you are committed to learning and will accommodate yourself to their schedule. A mentor will quickly know if you are wasting his time. Willingness to complete your assignments promptly and diligently will go a long way to convince your mentor you are a worthwhile student.

Are you someone who is willing to act as a mentor in the area of your expertise? Please talk to any of the officers or board members listed in February's Newsletter. Mentoring is good for both mentor and pupil.
--Martin Stolpe

FOR SALE

Jet 6* Jointer -- 3/4 HP --\$175. Call Pete Giovenco at 724 935 6102.

Victorian cabinet parts -- oak china cabinet doors 48 3/4 x 18 3/4 x 5/16, (glass 46 x 16 1/4), original hinges and handles, \$50.00. Solid walnut drawer front from Victorian wash stand. Original hardware, \$30.00. For both call Jerry Woods at 412 781 4145.

To place an ad in the Newsletter call editor Dave Truax at 412 833 5729

(Ed. note -- This might be what newspapers call a dry news day)