

# DIMENSIONS

Newsletter of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild

## At a Glance:

- Next meeting is Tuesday February 20, 2001. President's challenge this month is "wooden puzzles".
- 2x4 Challenge is coming up fast! Judging to be held at the April meeting.
- KMS Tools is holding the **Woodwars Battle**, March 10, 10 am–2 pm. Two man teams with only a few tools and scrap wood build a wood working project within a specified time limit.

## When Last We Met

By Murray Mackinnon

### [Pre-Meeting Demonstration](#)

Hopefully, the January 2001 meeting saw the first in a series of safety reviews. The theme was the safety associated with basic operations on the table saw. With some persuasion from **Tony Carter**, members contributed their experiences and advice (see article on page 3).

### [General Business](#)

President **Bob Bedier** called the first millennium meeting to order at 7:30 pm January 16, 2001. Guests welcomed were : **Glen Millar, Bill Bennett, Daryl Smith, Dave Thomas, Henry Schulz, Donna Gabriel** and **Rudi Deck**. It was great to see so many new faces and we look forward to seeing you all again.

**Bill Ophoff** demonstrated an adjustable height workbench with two vices. Bill thought this might be a suitable prototype for the Cloverdale raffle. Before he could use his upcoming Presidential casting vote, Bill was volunteered to organize a working group for this project.

**Marco Berera** mentioned he had an exhibit accepted for the Space Odyssey theme at the Seymour Art Gallery in Deep Cove (January 21-February 25). He noted that we need to have our exhibits lined up for the PWG 2"x4" summer retrospective show - deadline is July 30 and the sales commission is 25%.

**Phil Laliberte** announced that three reasonably large cherry trees were available for harvest near Sardis.

Chilliwack Community Services wrote to the Guild thanking us for our Christmas toy workshop donations – nice to receive such warm thanks and know it really helps.

### [Guest Speaker](#)

**Dennett Bryson**, a Stanley tool collector, kept us spellbound as he described the enormous range of tools produced by Stanley since the early 1800's. He is a member of the Early American Industry Association, Tool Group of Canada and the Pacific Northwest Tool Collectors. Dennett's father was a coach builder on Vancouver Island, so it is perhaps no surprise that he followed his father's interests in woodworking. Dennett had indicated he would bring along some of his collection, but nobody imagined he would lug in boxes of them (well over one hundred items). It would take pages to encapsulate all the information Dennett relayed to us. What was equally interesting was to learn of all the variations in the planes during their production (e.g. some had aluminum versions, #46 had 22 variations) and some of the variations were only for a short time, making them collector's items.

Dennett also brought along a collection of framing squares, coming from the Vermont plant. He has upwards of 90 of them – stainless, aluminum, blued steel, copper plated, handyman, with angles for tapers and braces, etc. In the same vein he showed us their range of levels.

As well, he showed us an interesting range of accessories made by Stanley (items such as angle dividers, dent scrapers, and even a device for holding corrugated nails), and some of his real treasures such as an elaborately carved Japanese chalk line.

I think we all could have listened for another hour to this fascinating speaker. President Bob presented Dennett with an official PWG yo-yo.

Thank you Dennett, and thanks for waiting so patiently. Dennet can be contacted at (604) 263-6965.



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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Murray Mackinnon, via email: [murraym@istar.ca](mailto:murraym@istar.ca) or call 986-5471.

The Pacific Woodworkers Guild is a non-profit association of British Columbia Craftspeople dedicated to excellence in woodworking. Guild members meet on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in Richmond, B.C.

The newsletter is published monthly, ten times per year, and distributed free to members and associate members. Membership is available to anyone interested in any form of fine woodworking. Membership fees are \$25 for twelve months; Associate membership fees (newsletter only) are \$15 for ten issues.

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## Guild Executive

### Elected Officers

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Treasurer*  
*Secretary*  
*Members-at-Large*

Bob Bedier  
Bill Ophoff  
Lou Hafer  
Phil Laliberte  
Paul Townsend  
Bill Fox  
Art Liestman  
Dan Lemire

### Committees

#### Newsletter -

*Publisher*  
*Editor*  
*Labels*  
*Mailout*  
*Reporters*

Paul Townsend  
Murray Mackinnon  
Murray Mackinnon  
Fred Otte  
Marco Berera  
Fred Baldwin  
Murray MacKinnon  
Bob Vergette  
Denis Reid  
Paul Townsend  
Tony Carter

#### Webmaster

*Meeting Entertainment and Workshops*

*2x4 Challenge*

Paulin Laberge

*Richmond Carvers' Show*

*BC Woodworking Show - Delta Workshop*

*PWG Booth*

*Christmas Toy Workshop*

*Fundraising/Charity Raffle*

*Library*

Ted Fromson

Denis Reid  
Art Eberwein  
Ron McLeod

Denis Reid

Jan Dicks

Bob Bedier  
Art Liestman

## Guild Elections — To be held at the February Meeting

By Bob Vergette

As usual we don't exactly have a hotly contested election. In fact, I have been unable to find anyone who will serve as secretary of the Guild. This is unfortunate, as I don't believe that the position requires too much effort. At the meeting I will be asking if there are any other members who are willing to let their name stand for any of the positions and will particularly focus on the secretary position. Outgoing president **Bob Bedier** has agreed to stand as a member at large. **Bill Ophoff** has been nominated for president, and **Dan Lemire** has allowed his name to stand for Vice President. **Lou Hafer** has agreed to stand as treasurer. Much thanks to everyone who has volunteered. Remember the Guild relies on the leadership of this group for its success.

The committees constitute another important part of making the Guild work. I have talked to everyone on the list and we have added a number of assistants. It is important that the Guild member who is in charge of any of the committees make use of those who have volunteered to help them. Assistants have been found to help **Tony Carter** for meeting entertainment — thanks to **Jack Wagner** and **Don Fralick** for volunteering. **Phil Laliberte** had previously offered to help **Paulin Laberge** with the 2 by 4 contest and now **Mike Leahy** has also offered his services. **Jan Dicks** will continue to lead the meeting raffles but now **Klaas Focker** has volunteered to fill in when Jan is not available. I have not mentioned all of the committee members but the Guild owes a debt of gratitude to all. You are the backbone of the Guild.

## President's Challenge—January 2001

By Murray Mackinnon

This new event was a huge success thanks to the splendid efforts of the nine participants and the organizational work of **Mel Anderson**. Should we thank the Vancouver Woodturning Guild for acquiring their idea? January's theme was a letter opener and the versions were many and resplendent as shown in the table to the right. The winners, as voted by the meeting attendees are: first – **Harvey Taylor**, second – **Henry Schulz**, and third – **George Radke**.

Reminder – The February President's Challenge is "wooden puzzles".

### President's Challenge January 2001 Letter Openers

<b>Mel Anderson</b>	Lacewood
<b>Marco Berera</b>	"Pallet" wood
<b>Jan Dicks</b>	Apple
<b>Mike Leahy</b>	Cocobolo (barley twist)
<b>Lor Pellet</b>	Plum wood
<b>George Radke</b>	Oak/Walnut
<b>Denis Reid</b>	
<b>Henry Schulz</b>	Cocobolo/Maple (fretted horses)
<b>Harvey Taylor</b>	Fretted Celtic design

## Table Saw Safety Tips

By Murray Mackinnon

The table saw is one of the most useful tools in a joinery shop and can also be one of the most dangerous. "It will never happen to me" seems the norm. Moreover, guards make life difficult, so it is understandably rare to see them ever being used. However, there are several basic principles that seem useful for us to consider:

*"The table saw is one of the most useful tools ... and can also be one of the most dangerous."*

1. Unplug the saw before changing the blade or pulleys. Electrical malfunctions/human error occur, especially in multi-user situations and belts/pulleys are as effective as blades in severing digits.
2. Leave the saw in a safe state (blade down and saw unplugged), while it is not being used (especially so if multi-users on-site, or children are about).
3. Use the machine safely by not having tools/clutter on the table, ensuring the table insert is flush with the table, and the blade on securely and in the right direction.
4. Avoid kickback/binds by:
  - using a splitter (you can easily make ones that rise and fall);
  - using featherboards, board buddies, etc. (keeps pressure towards fence);
  - allowing exit clearance with a ripping fence;
  - waiting until the stock clears the blade if tailing;
  - standing to one side of the line of the blade);
  - not using the rip fence as a stop block (attach a block to the fence forward of the blade);
  - not rip trimming nearly square objects (tangential kickback as the stock exits);
  - letting pieces accumulate/linger near the blade.
5. Keep fingers away from the blade by:
  - using push sticks, push boxes that straddle the ripping fence, etc.;
  - using jigs (e.g. cut-off sleds) to secure the work;
  - allowing minimal projection of the blade (e.g. 1/8" above stock).
6. Keep waste to the outside of the blade.
7. Keep within your safety/comfort level – if it does not seem right for you there must be a better way or another machine.

Volunteers are needed over the year, to help facilitate similar sessions on the router, jointer, etc. Your help would be truly welcomed by us all, so please contact **Tony Carter** if you can help or have ideas.

## 2001 – A 2x4 Challenge ... “Old: things – New: groups”

By Paulin Laberge

Whenever I visit museums or historical sites I am always amazed by the skill and artistry of the woodworkers of yore. Without the convenience and accuracy of modern tools and materials, woodworkers produced complex pieces of furniture, crafted stylish items of home décor and created elegant wares used for daily life.

In honour of these fine craftspeople, the theme for this year's 2x4 challenge is “*Things from the 19th century or earlier.*” Unlike our ancestors, who had the advantage of large stands of first-growth forest, you will need to start with a regulation-sized 2x4 and build an article originating prior to 1900 or an article in a style that dates prior to 1900. You do, however, have the advantages of power tools, unless you choose to keep with the theme and use only hand tools and historically accurate glues/finishes.

There are no restrictions on what that you can build. It can be something no longer in common usage, for example, a wooden butter churn. Alternatively, it could be something still in use today, for example, a Shaker table or a Victorian quilting frame. If you need some inspiration, check out a few web sites, e.g., a museum [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass), a design house, [www.tribu-design.com](http://www.tribu-design.com), or an association [www.gray-cells.com/ArtsAndCrafts](http://www.gray-cells.com/ArtsAndCrafts).

If this sounds too challenging, perhaps you can work with another member and submit an entry in our new “Group” category. The Group category allows two or more members to band together to create an entry. It permits members with different skills to combine these to realize projects that would not be possible were each member to work alone.

However you choose to enter, the key to making this year's event a success is to have lots

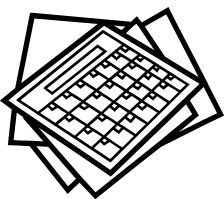
of entries. Whilst the public's interest in the 2x4 challenge has gone up in recent years, the number of entries has gone down over the last two years. There was one overwhelming piece of feedback last year - **more entries**. There are more ways than ever to enter, so don't delay, enter today!

To simplify judging, this year's entries will be judged only for originality, craftsmanship and effectiveness (best incorporation of the wood's unique characteristics). We have also reduced the number of special awards. In keeping with this year's theme we will present awards for the most historically accurate item and the most authentic construction technique. We will again present an award to the best first-time entry (sorry, group entries not eligible for this one) and the best use of a 2x4. For complete rules and regulations, please see the back of the entry form or visit the Guild's web site.

Finally, to keep you all your toes, we have a new venue yet again this year. Sadly, last year's venue was unavailable, but this year's is larger and as a bonus is on the ground level. The exhibition and judging will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at the Sapper-ton Pensionner's Hall, 318 Keary, New Westminster, which is located across the street and west from the Royal Columbian Hospital.

We will again be featuring entries from prior years for a people's choice award. To permit us to make place cards up ahead of time, please provide **Phil Laliberte** with the name of article, wood type, finish and year of entry of the items that you wish to bring. Phil can be reached by phone at 936-2995 or by e-mail at: [pjl@designs@hotmail.com](mailto:pjl@designs@hotmail.com). It is always a pleasure to see work from prior years so don't be afraid to bring something even if you showed it off last year.

*“Whilst the public's interest has gone up in recent years, the number of entries has gone down ... There was one overwhelming piece of feedback last year — more entries.”*



### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday February 20th, starting at 7:30 pm. The speaker for February is **Brent Gloeckler**.

Brent is involved in the movie industry in various ways, but mostly in set design and construction. He will talk on design and materials (not always wood) and will have slides to show.