

When Last We Met

by Gordon Bednard

Meeting began at 7:15 – **Phil Laliberte** having recovered from his ailment and again picked up the reigns and vestments of authority, called the meeting to order.

New faces in the Crowd is **Mark Fairbairn**. He saw our booth at the show in October and is interested in furniture building. As well, it was gratifying to see some of the “new faces” from the last meeting, proving, I suppose, that we are at least interesting enough to warrant a second look.

Toy Workshop

David Pye volunteered to replace **Denis Reid** as the linchpin and grand chief of the toy workshop. Denis was applauded for his years of dedication to the toy workshop. The members agree that this is one of the most worthwhile activities we do as a group. A big thanks to David for taking over this rewarding task. And speaking of the toy workshop, **Dave Adshead**, one of the many Santa’s helpers in the group, reported that 183 toys had been finished and delivered last Saturday to the Toy Bank, who were delighted to see them. It was widely reported that a good time was had by all those helpers who finished the

toys on the 13th. Photos of the toys and workers will be appearing in the January newsletter. Finally, a donation to the Christmas Bureau of \$350 from Raffle ticket sales was reported by **Lou Hafer**.

Wood Co-op Update

Steve Hansen reported that his late (and not really lamented) computer had been replaced and that the Guild’s application for admission to the Co-op was being re-built from the ground up. Only those mem-

February Straight Line Designs

March Ross Glover (marquetry)

April We entertain ourselves with the famous “2 X 4 “ challenge

May A rep from Smith Plywood will talk about plywood and synthetic boards

bers who want to be listed to enable them to sell through the Co-op would be part of the application. Steve will be sending out an e-mail to ensure all members have an opportunity to get on the list, and those

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Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, Jan. 20th



Toy Workshop, December 2003



Pacific Woodworkers Guild

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Please direct
newsletter
submissions to the
newsletter editor,

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 Directory

Elected Officers

<i>President</i>	Phil Laliberte
<i>Vice-President</i>	Dan Lemire
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lou Hafer
<i>Secretary</i>	Paulin Laberge
<i>Members-at-Large</i>	Paul Townsend
	Bill Fox
	Art Liestman
	Bob Bedier

Committees

<i>Newsletter -</i>	
<i>Publisher</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Editor</i>	Steve Hansen
<i>Labels</i>	Lou Hafer
<i>Mailout</i>	Fred Otte
<i>Reporters</i>	Denis Reid
	Gordon Bednard
	Merv Graham
	Steve Hansen
	Derek Yee
<i>Webmaster</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Entertainment/Workshops</i>	Bill Ophoff
	Derek Yee
<i>2x4 Challenge</i>	Paulin Laberge
<i>Assistants</i>	Phil Laliberte
	Mike Leahy
	John Weir
<i>Woodworking Shows</i>	Kelly McClay
	Tony Carter
	Ed Brennen
	Bill Fox
	Matt Buss
<i>Christmas Toy Workshop</i>	Denis Reid
<i>Assistant</i>	Dave Adshead
<i>Fundraising/Raffle</i>	Steve Wegwitz
<i>Assistant</i>	Bill Fox
<i>Library</i>	Bob Bedier

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, January 20th starting at 7:15pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

Guest Speaker—Mary Chinni. Mary has worked in the wooden boat industry for many years and has trained quite a few people in her topic of applying a varnish finish.

President's Challenge—A plywood project



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without computers (the fortunate few) should contact Steve directly.

Entertainment

Bill Ophoff expressed the regrets of the guest speaker for the evening. Apparently she caught the flu that is going around and was not able to attend this evening. She has re-booked for January when we will learn everything there is to know about how to apply a fine varnish finish to all those projects you completed over the holidays. Bill then gave a brief rundown on the next few meeting's scheduled guests:

February - Straight Line Designs

March - Ross Glover (marquetry)

April - "2 X 4 " challenge

May - A rep from Smith Plywood will talk about plywood and synthetic boards

Stuart MacKenzie will be taking over the coordination and recruitment of speakers from Bill. The Guild thanks Bill for his hard work in this area.

General Meeting

It was remarked and generally agreed by the members present that the last two editions of the newsletter had been outstanding in the area of "When Last We Met" reportage. Knowing a setup when he sees one, but still being too dumb to run when he had a clear shot at the exit, your humble scribe accepted the praise with unusual humility, vowing to find out who had started these rumours and put a stop to them once and for all.

There was a request for an updated membership list as it was noted that Noah was still listed as "active member". Lou will be attaching an updated list to the next newsletter, physically for those who receive it in the mail, and electronically for those who have embraced technology and get the e-newsletter. And speaking of the newsletter, **Steve Hansen** asked for those with digital cameras to bring them to meetings and photograph the Guild in action (high speed digitization not required) so that *President's Challenge* and *Show and Tell* items could be added to the newsletter. These could be a great addition and beat the heck out of trying to describe some of the projects undertaken by the guild members. Some things you have to see to believe.

Q and A

Stuart asked if he could use router bits in a shaper. It was discussed and generally agreed that the shaper didn't have sufficient RPM at 10,000 to effectively use the smaller router bits, especially the 1/4 inch variety. Some of the larger 1/2 in bits may work, however. This discussion segued (don't you love these words) into a demonstration by Stuart of the "Miller Dowel" joinery system. A stepped and ribbed dowel is fitted into a hole made by a stepped drill bit. The system seemed well thought out and had some advantages over the normal dowel systems, mainly in the area of assembly, as you don't need to clamp - the dowels hold the boards together. As well, with very little glue, the joints seem to be as strong as screws. They also work well on plywoods and particle board with no splits. Stuart had demonstrated the system for local TV and used it himself and was quite impressed. Bits and dowels are available locally through *Lee Valley* and *House of Tools*. A starter kit is around \$30 and the dowels run around the same cost as biscuits.

President's Challenge - Nut Crackers

Marco Berera showed off his "man-sized" cracker (steady now!!) which worked in two ways - the nut could be either crushed by the internal screw mechanism, or you could beat the nut into a pulp by hammering it with the body of the device. Either way the pro-



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ject was well executed and garnered a round of applause.

Dennis Reid showed off a more traditional design, straight out of the fairytale. He had made a number of these for friends and family and explained that the painting was the hardest part. These too were enthusiastically received.



Show and Tell

Steve Hansen showed us all a turned vessel made from acacia (black locust) and described for the non-turners in the audience the process of hollowing the turning. It likely sounds easier than it is in practice. Steve's turning was finished in a matte lacquer from *Krylon*. Steve also showed a small turned box made from cocobolo rosewood and described the controversy in the turning world between the "pressure fit" and the "easy off" camps in the lid department. Steve favours the easy off approach as this lets you fill the box using less than the three hands you need for most other woodworking operations. The top of the box was patterned with a chatter tool (actually a long thin gouge held well back from the piece). Steve also invited all and sundry to attend the woodturners meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at the Sapperton Hall in New West.

Dave Adshead showed off a very nice "treble cleft" with internal clock which he had made as a gift. He described how something which started as a 17 X 6 piece of wood could end up as a 7 X 3 finished project. Wood shrink-

age was generally agreed to be the culprit. Dave said that he had learned a lot on this, one of his first projects. Based on the high quality of workmanship, we look forward to seeing his next efforts.

Eric Bartens then displayed his bird feeder which had been the subject of many an admiring glance before the meeting. It was made in a Swiss chalet style with several feeding stations throughout. He worked on this project for 40 hours, much of which was given to creating the 720 hand-split shakes for the roof. Finish was 2 coats of *Flecto varathane*.

Meanwhile back at Q and A

A question was asked about dust filtration in the workshop. This precipitated (pun intended) a lot of discussion with everyone who spoke having an opinion (go figure) on the topic. To summarize:

- We sure could use a speaker on the topic (Stuart will follow up)
- The really nasty dust is the stuff 0.5 microns or less, which is the hardest to filter out.
- The more stages the better for sawdust chip separation as well as dust filtration and capture.
- Try to separate by using two stage filtration due to nails and such in the sawdust which can cause sparks, fire and explosions on impact with steel impellers.
- Kremer Tools can manufacture filter bags to your specs.
- And remember: too much power can turn your Rubbermaid garbage can separator into a flattened piece of industrial wreckage. (at least Steve F says so)

Of course you could just sand outside your shop....

And finally...

Following a break where much tasty food (and some which may actually be good for you) was consumed, the monthly raffle was drawn with \$62.50 going to the lucky winner of the 50/50 and others receiving lovely parting gifts of various magazines. January's President's Challenge was set as "something made of plywood".

The meeting closed at 9:00 with a Merry Christmas to all. See you next year!

Book Review

by Guy Lautard .

The CANOE - A Living Tradition by John Jennings and other contributors. Firefly Books, 2002. \$59.95 ISBN 1-55209-509-6

If you have an interest in boats, particularly small boats that ordinary people can afford, you may have noticed this book on shelves in places like Indigo Books, etc. I got a review copy, and had a good look through it all. I had an ulterior motive...

This book is a coffee table book about canoes – native, bark, dugout, and skin-on-frame kayaks and umiaks, as well as factory-made recreational canoes of the present and earlier years. Things you can do in a canoe, like race, fish, camp and sail, get some attention, as do birchbark and wood/canvas vessels, as well as Adirondak Guideboats. There is a short (4-page) photo series on the construction of a wide-board-and-batten basswood canoe by a 94 year old chap who had been a foreman at the Peterborough Canoe Company factory.

The section of this book that most interested me was the one on dugout canoes, specifically coastal Indian dugouts – what you might broadly refer to as "Haida War Canoes." These vessels were apparently seaworthy enough to deal with the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and were used on long voyages.

It is fairly easy to obtain a line drawing for the hull of almost any type of boat you care to name, but one type it does NOT seem very easy to find line drawings for is these dugouts. This book is one source of info of this type, although what is given is somewhat rudimentary.

I learned a few things from studying this section of the book. For one thing, I learned that different groups produced dugouts having different shapes, particularly at bow and stern. Some Nootka vessels are angled almost vertical at the stern and have an angle of maybe 45° at the bow, whereas a Haida canoe shown in the book has a 45° stern, and a vertical stern that then angles forward at about 30° above horizontal.

Now if a guy wanted to build such a boat, what might he do?

For an individual, particularly a non-Native, to get a suitable log to try his hand at carving a dugout canoe in the Vancouver area strikes me as rather difficult. Maybe sufficient \$\$ would make obtaining a log easier than I think. But it would take more than one log, because it is unlikely one's first try would be 100% satisfactory.

Well, what about a strip built version of a dugout canoe? Hull shape is likely easier to control with this method than with carving, steaming and spreading the gunwales (the sides of a boat, above the waterline, pronounced: gunnels) of a dugout, particularly on a first attempt. It seems to me that one could probably say, "Well, ok, these hulls typically look like this in side elevation and 25 feet is a good average/workable length, and 44" is a good average maximum beam." From there, one could probably proceed to develop a set of lines drawings, make a form, and build a strip built "Coastal Canoe."

Anybody interested?

Calendar Of Events

- **January 20, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild January meeting.
- **February 17, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild February meeting.
- **March 16, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild March meeting.
- **April 20, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild April meeting.
- **May 2004**—Richmond Carver's Show
- **May 18, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild May meeting.
- **June 15, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild June meeting.
- **August 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Picnic
- **September 21, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
- **October, 2004**—Woodworking show
- **October 19, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
- **November 16, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.