

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, June. 15th

When Last We Met

by Gord Bednard

An eclectic display of wood working paraphernalia greeted your scribe as he arrived for the May meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild. (OK – I'll stop here and wait a few minutes while you find that old Oxford dictionary) The pre-meeting demonstration was not as much demonstration as display of new and interesting tools from the **Samona** line, as presented by **Bob Wright**, Samona's regional sales manager. Some appeared to be unique items and others seemed to be knock-offs of other brands. This is not a dig at Samona. Let's face it, how many different ways can you make a ¾ inch pipe clamp or a flush cutting saw? One item did intrigue this writer – a cam-action clamp for holding two boards as one "T"s into another – rather a clever design. Unfortunately, Bob only had one catalogue (now residing in the hallowed dust-laden vaults of the Guild library) and no price list, although he did repeatedly emphasize that the Samona line was available at "good, competitive prices", and this has been confirmed by various Guild members. Give the tools a look – off-shore products (aren't they all now?) available at Summit tools, KMS tools etc. Bob can be reached for further information, at 604-298-4484 or for those versed in cyber-speak at bob@samona.com.

Following the demo, **Phil Laliberte**, our much revered Guild president, put his best foot forward (and down) to pronounce the meeting open. (His Arthur Murray dance lessons seem to be paying off big time).

First on the agenda was the latest on the Wood show (October 15-17). **Bill Fox** and **Marco Berera** will co-ordinate the solicitation for, and collection of prizes for the draw. A garden bench was one of the prizes mentioned, along with a host of other suggestions. Volunteers too numerous to mention were heard offering to build things for the draw (you know who you are) and tickets will be available at the June meeting so you all can sell, sell, sell over

the summer. Remember that tickets make fine gifts for any occasion. **Kelly McClay** will again be coordinating the Guild's activities at the show (and would likely welcome any and all assistance offered).

Suggestions were then received for on-site demonstrations, and a discussion of liability issues ensued. It seemed to be the consensus that hand operations with no audience participation may be the best bet (e.g. making dovetails) with possible demonstrations of turning techniques.

The belt sander race track would again be set up for the show and Guild members were encouraged by **Rob Prinse** to build a racer and race it! The track is 14 inches wide and sanders must have sandpaper touching the track as part of the drive mechanism.

The next order of business was the pressing need for a replacement refrigerator for Bill's shop. Apparently the existing fridge has ceased to work its frosty charms, and will shortly be gracing a recycling depot nearby. Services will not be held, however, donations of a replacement would be greatly appreciated. Sorry, no tax receipts available.

And then, the event we had all been waiting for: the introduction of the main guest speaker for the evening by **Stuart MacKenzie**, our entertainment coordinator. **Eric Hubert**, manager and employee of **Smith Plywoods** for the last 11 years, presented the Guild members with an informative and detailed, interactive discussion of plywood and other man-made wood products.

Smith Plywoods sells wholesale and retail plywoods from its location on 192 St in Surrey (near corner of 192 and hwy 10), and has been family owned for the last 25
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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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Next Meeting

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

Guest Speaker—*To Be Announced.*

President's Challenge—Toys For Christmas



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years. It deals directly with the mills and can therefore offer prices and products which other suppliers cannot, especially with regard to oversize or specialty products. Smith specializes in high and low end plywood.

“OSB has some out-gassing problems due to the high glue content, and can be difficult to dimension depending on the type of press used.”

Plywood is a sheet-wood product produced from gluing up laminations of wood and other wood products. This is not to be confused with OSB (oriented strand board) another sheet product made from layers of wood chips and glue. OSB is a product which Smith does not carry, and while politely confirming that it is better made than it used to be, Eric couldn't help but smile slightly when admitting that he preferred to work in plywood. OSB has some out-gassing problems due to the high glue content, and can be difficult to dimension depending on the type of press used.

Standard plywood is generally made up of spruce or fir plys bonded with marine grade (phenolic) glues which can be distinguished from other glue in that it shows as a black glue line. Marine plywood, as an aside, uses the same glue but better ply grades and generally has fewer voids. Sheets can come 1/8 to 2 1/2 in thick, and up to 5 ft by 10 ft in size.

Other products in the Smith yard include:

- **MDO** – medium density overlay – plywood with a fir interior and smooth (resin impregnated) face, mostly used for signs but also good for trailer decks (there's a contrast!)
- **HDO** – high density overlay - is similar but has two paper coats and is used for more durable needs like fine finished concrete forms, highway signs, etc.—both are mainly void free and with good edge sealing make for a long lasting panel.
- **MDO** - starts about \$40 for a 3/4 panel

with HDO starting at about \$50. This topic generated much discussion regarding US lawsuits over roofing and siding made from MDO and their respective fire ratings in California. Only in the US could people go to court over the fact that wood products might actually burn. Go figure.

- **MDF** – medium density fibreboard – is a pressed sawdust product which, in the experience of this writer, had better be kept dry in use. Otherwise it takes on all the strength and appearance of fine compost. It is intended as an interior product and comes in a variety of weights and thicknesses. Some is even used as a core for hardwood plywood. HDF (you figure it out) also exists and is used for speaker enclosures, or screw holders as Steve Hansen will confirm.
- **Hardwood plywoods** – generally fir, birch or other core with hardwood faces – come in an amazing variety of species. From bird's eye maple to knotty pine, you can get it all at Smith plywood. If you can afford it, and some panels will run well over \$200, they can supply out of stock, or order it for you.
- Other products mentioned included straw board, bamboo board, hemp board (steady now!) – no prizes for what these may be produced from.

Quality is based on the type of cut (rotary versus flat sliced) and the quality of veneers. Letters A-D indicate the quality of the face veneer (A is better), a number from 1-4 indicates the quality of the backer.

A price list was provided to the scribe, but will likely be out of date as prices change constantly. While the company has no website, phone inquiries are always welcome.

A hearty round of applause and the presentation of wooden pens as a parting gift were *(Continued on page 4)*

Speakers' Gifts

As a reminder, have you given any thought about producing the Guild's speaker gifts for next year? The guild is prepared to remunerate you for your efforts, although you probably won't be able to retire on the proceeds. It's a great way to support the club and to motivate yourself. We will need something starting SEPTEMBER, so there is not much time left. Perhaps a few of you could collaborate on something, you know a turner and a carver and cabinet-maker, maybe even a screwholder-maker. . . Thanks for giving it a thought.

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the Guild member's way of thanking Eric for a most informative and entertaining talk.

Meanwhile back at the meeting, the following happened:

- Ash cutoffs were offered to all and sundry
- The annual picnic was announced to be at **Steve Fairbairn's** (17080 Fedoruk Rd, Richmond) on August 8th (or the 15th if raining) No official word on what may happen if other plagues or natural disasters strike. Please bring your own hempwood.
- **Rob Prinse** announced the formation of a new wood-working guild dedicated to making Christmas toys for kids.
- The Marquetry workshop was well attended and well received by all attendees.
- Next months President's Challenge is "Toys for Christmas".
- There is a potential field trip to Abbotsford in the fall to visit a guy who is building a wooden airplane – stay tuned for date and time.
- **Marco** showed off some objects made during a turning class he had taken. Circles, pears, footballs and round balls, all by eye and not by templates, were shown. As well, he had some nicely decorated animal carvings from Central America.

Raffle prizes were drawn, and the meeting closed at 9:30.

Pacific Woodworkers Guild Summer Picnic

All members and their families are invited to the **Pacific Woodworkers Guild Summer Picnic**, which will be held on Sunday, August 8th. In the event of inclement weather, the picnic will be postponed to the following Sunday, August 15th.

There will be a special July Picnic Edition Newsletter sent out with more details about the picnic, activities, driving directions, contact numbers, what to bring, etc.

This year's picnic will be once again held in Steve Fairbairn's spacious backyard in rural East Richmond. The address and directions will be available at the June meeting and in the July newsletter. You can also contact Steve at sgfmail@shaw.ca if you have any questions.

Calendar Of Events

- **June 15, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild June meeting.
- **August 8th, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Picnic
- **September 10 to 12, 2004**—West Coast Woodturning Symposium. Contact Steve Hansen 604-585-0638 for details.
- **September 21, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
- **October 15 to 17, 2004**—BC Woodworking Show—Cloverdale Rodeo & Exhibition Grounds
- **October 19, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
- **November 16, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild September meeting.
- **December 21, 2004**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild January meeting.
- **January 18, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild February meeting.
- **February 15, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild February meeting.

