

### When Last We Met

By Gord Bednard

In one of those startling coincidences which drives the otherwise sane to stand on street corners spouting bad poetry or watch a 24 hour "Three's Company" marathon, both the anticipated pre-meeting demonstration of a new dovetail machine/fixture and the scheduled meeting presentation on photographing your woodworking items, were cancelled due to an acute lack of speakers. Much vexatious gnashing of teeth was exhibited by the assembled members, until it was announced that **Stuart McKenzie**, our intrepid program co-coordinator, had arranged for **Phil**, our fearless leader, to hastily prepare, a nonetheless well-executed demonstration on CNC machining - more about that later..

Thus the evening began with a pre-meeting demonstration involving magnets and their utility in the workshop. **Paul Blatter** showed the members some of the ways in which he uses magnets (and bear in mind that these are the rare-earth super-magnets as sold by **Lee Valley et al**) for display and storage of tools, searching for metals in lumber or fallen trees before milling, and the more mundane (but important) keeping of cabinet doors closed. Other members chimed in to the discussion that followed regarding their use of rare earth as well as salvaged speaker magnets. Indeed, your humble scribe has attached the gooseneck portion of an old broken bedside lamp to a salvaged speaker magnet and now has a task light for the bandsaw and drill press. As impressive and enlightening as the demonstration was, however, the members were just as enthusiastic about the display of old tools that Paul brought. Too bad we couldn't persuade Paul to include them in the raffle.

After a hearty round of applause for Paul, **Marco** favoured the members with a surprisingly on-topic "blonde" joke which dealt with fishing for steelhead with magnets. All the blondes in the audience took great umbrage at this slight, and may have caused a small

riot except that their short attention span prevented them from remembering if they had been insulted or not. The meeting carried on after Marco promised never again to tell a blonde steelhead fishing joke.

Introductions of first timers followed with **Katie**, who saw our booth at the Cloverdale show, and expressed that she had wide ranging interests - from crafts to furniture making.

With **Paulin** in Japan checking on the sushi situation, the members were reminded that the *2x4 Challenge* was approaching in April at the Sapperton Hall. This year's challenge would be an extreme makeover of a standard SPF 2x4 from the lumberyard. Challenge details are on the website. And speaking of which, for those who were blissfully unaware, there is a new guild website address : [www.pacificwoodworkersguild.com](http://www.pacificwoodworkersguild.com). Same awe inspiring content, just a new address. If you go to the old address you will not be able to access the 2005 stuff, which caused your scribe no end of concern last week.

It was announced that **Nora Hall**, wood carver, might be coming to BC to teach a class. **Lou** will be following up on this possibility, so stay tuned to these pages (or come to the meetings) to hear about further developments. For those of you like me, whose carving experience is limited to the yearly butchering of the Christmas turkey, this may be a golden opportunity to expand your woodworking knowledge.

When asked, **Bill** had not received any new information regarding the heritage trees to be taken down in Richmond to make way for the Olympic facilities planned along River Road. He will follow up and report back if there is any news by next meeting.

It was reported that a 6x9 foot trailer had

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#### Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Feb. 15th.



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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: [urquell@shaw.ca](mailto:urquell@shaw.ca) or call 604-986-5471.

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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	Bill Fox
	Art Liestman
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	Ivan Antoniw

## Next Meeting

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

**Guest Speaker—?**

**Pre-Meeting Demo—?**

## Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the March newsletter is Mar. 4. Please send your submission to the editor: Steve Hansen at [urquell@shaw.ca](mailto:urquell@shaw.ca) or contact by phone for snail mail address.

## When Last We Met (con't)

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been purchased to be used by the guild for the transportation of display items to various functions, such as the Cloverdale show. The guild will have to design and build the superstructure for the trailer. This could be the subject of a sawdust huddle in the spring before the *Richmond Carvers Show*. Stay tuned.

In other news, it was reported that **Bob McPherson** of North Vancouver was looking for someone to make some high-end cabinets and furniture for a new home. He can be contacted at 604-987-8521.

Finally, we got to the point of the meeting where, under normal circumstances, an engaging and knowledgeable woodworker (or other related expert) would regale the members and expand their knowledge with a presentation of a woodworking related subject. As previously reported, this was not to be the case on this night. Instead, the members were delighted to welcome our own **Phil Laliberte** who, in a presentation which would have wowed them in Vegas, introduced the members to the development and utility of Computer Numerical Control (CNC), and its application in design and manufacturing as it applies to woodworking. Lights were doused, and Phil began with the history and development of CNC – from a Godzilla-like machine pioneered at MIT to the affordable *ShopBot* models presently available. There was even a working Lego-based model!! (Some people seem to have more than enough time on their hands.)

The greatest advantage to the woodworker from the use of these machines would appear to be their ability to tirelessly repeat operations and thus free the woodworker from the more mundane tasks associated with, for example, cabinetmaking. This

would free up time to be more creative in the design aspects of woodworking, or at least give you time to get to the refrigerator for some refreshments.

Following Phil's presentation (which was well received by the members – we only had to awaken a few when the lights went back on – sorry Phil), the raffle was drawn. Again, your scribe was only a few numbers away from the winners. I'll just have to buy more tickets.

Show and Tell featured:

- **Peter** who told us about his scroll-sawn sleigh made from cherry and ash veneers. The piece was about 12 inches long by 8 tall. He also had some small plaques with cat cutouts which would have delighted any cat fancier.
- **Dan Lemiere** led us through the evolution of his box which was a product of "PAD" – process aided design, or in other words, "as built". The key to this piece was the fixing of problems and the eventual completion in a form not entirely unlike the opposite of what it was intended to look like. (my words, not Dan's)

Following up from his presentation, Phil showed off some panels done on a CNC router: a wolf carving with texture added by using different finishes, and house numbers with a hummingbird motif (a work in progress – see above re: PAD). The examples shown would typically require 20 minutes of programming time and 90 minutes of cutting, using 2 bits (one for roughing and one for finishing).

The meeting ended around 9:30 with Phil threatening to explain CNC programming to all who wanted to stay afterwards.

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## Calendar Of Events

- \* **February 15, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **March 15, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **April 19, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting and 2x4 Challenge at Sapperton Pensioner's Hall.
- \* **May 17, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **May 2005**—Richmond Carvers Show
- \* **June 21, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- \* **August 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Summer Picnic
- \* **September 20, 2005**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting