

When Last We Met

By Gord Bednard
April 19, 2005
Photos by Steve Fairbairn

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Apr. 17th.

Well, this is the latest I have ever been in writing up the action from the last meeting. But I have an excuse that has nothing to do with my excitement over the impending election. Which one, you may ask. Take your pick. Its silly season all over BC and soon (if Harper and his minions have their way) from coast to coast in this great land of ours. And just wait, we have to do it all again this fall as the municipal elections are also on the way. I'd ask God to save us from all these politicians, but its likely that he (she?) has better things to do. And so do the members of the Pacific Woodworkers guild. Nice segue eh? I'll bet you'll agree after you look "segue" up.

In fact, part of the excuse is the very activity of which I write today: the often imitated but never equalled PWG 2x4 challenge!! Your intrepid scribe, having begged off recording

the proceedings for the evening reasoning that as I was participating in the event (more on this later), was astonished to learn at the end of the event that no-one had taken up the quill and noted the salient facts. But all was not lost. Short of calling in the CSI forensic team to unravel the mystery of what had happened that evening (and I trust you all have alibis!) I was approached at the end of the cleanup by one of the more techno-savvy members of the guild who informed me that he had recorded the proceedings and would send me the tape so I could still do the write-up. How convenient! How helpful! How I wish I had left earlier!! So now I have a recording of all the presentations, and my children have not stopped laughing after watching yours truly. I'll be burning the tape right after I admire my amazing stage presence again. Can you believe I've never

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2005 2x4 Challenge Winners



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Please direct newsletter submissions to the newsletter editor, Steve Hansen, via email: 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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Guild Directory

Elected Officers

<i>President</i>	Ivan Antoniw
<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>Reporter</i>	Gordon Bednard
	Steve Hansen
	TBA
<i>Guild Liaison</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Webmaster</i>	Stuart MacKenzie
<i>Entertainment/Workshops</i>	Paulin Laberge
<i>2x4 Challenge</i>	Phil Laliberte
<i>Assistants</i>	Paul Townsend
	Richard Heath
<i>Cloverdale Show</i>	Hugh MacGillivray
	Wally Sommerfeld
	Kelly McClay
	TBA
<i>Other Shows</i>	TBA
<i>Christmas Toy Work-</i>	David Pye
<i>Fundraising/Raffle</i>	Bill Fox
<i>Chauffeur</i>	Bob Bedier
<i>Library</i>	

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, May 17th starting at 7:30pm.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is June 7th. Please send your submission to the editor: Steve Hansen at urquell@shaw.ca or contact by phone for snail mail address.

Calendar Of Events

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| * May 17, 2005 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting | * September 20, 2005 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting |
| * May 28-29, 2005 —Richmond Carvers Show | * October 18, 2005 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting |
| * June 21, 2005 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting | |
| * August 2005 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Summer Picnic | |

When Last We Met (con't)

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 had any training at Toastmasters?

The evening began with presidential remarks from our leader **Ivan Antoniw** (remember – it's pronounced "Ivan") who also introduced **Paulin Laberge** as the Master of Ceremonies



Pauline Laberge

for the evening and the only one who understands all the rules of the challenge. Paulin took the stage (really more of a floor) and introduced the Challenge theme for this year – a plain old SPF (spruce-pine-fir) 2x4. He even introduced a plain old 2x4 that was loitering nearby. At this point the doors were locked so the audience couldn't escape. Those who had thought this was a political rally were greatly relieved to find out that the only voting would be for projects which didn't cost the taxpayer anything.

NOVICE

First up was **Ted Fromson** whose project was a demonstration of the need for planned parenthood. Ted had produced an entire herd of reindeer (26 in total) by band-sawing them from the 2x4. He even had lots of left-



Ted Fromson

over bits which could be used to produce tops and other small items. Ted announced that the entire herd would be donated to whoever was organizing the toy workshops this year. Hmmm. Reindeer, toys, and Ted's uncanny resemblance to a jolly gift-giving guy. Makes you think, eh?

The next presenter was your humble scribe himself who by all appearances seems to have way too much time on his hands as I presented three projects ranging from the practical to the extremely useless. The first was a bear shaped band-sawn box with two drawers. This was made from all the clear wood which could be gleaned from a 2x4, which was not a lot, and finished with a clear oil/varnish product. The second project was a wine rack which hangs on the wall and displays the wine labels, while holding the



Gord Bednard

bottles horizontally, which is the proper way to store wine. Again, finished with clear oil/varnish, but all the wood was used – knots and all. Finally, a totally useless project was put on display. Based on the inspiration of one of the members who spoke at a regular meeting (I'm sure it was Art), I constructed a giant paper clip! It's destined to be a gift for a retiring bureaucrat – how appropriate!

The final presenter in the Novice category
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Erich Bartens

was **Erich Bartens** who showed a plant stand made from cherry wood. Not to be outdone by himself, he then brought forth a larger version of the stand, omitting the base, and incorporating (at the request of his daughter) a glass ball into the centre of the leg structure. Eric stated that the volume of wood



Marco Berera

required for the project could be gleaned from a 2x4.

As there were no intermediate entrants we move quickly to Expert category.

Marco Berera was first up with a “just thrown together” project which took less than 8 hours. Marco had produced a candle stand (also tells the time – sorry, you had to be there) which utilized all but the smallest portion of the 2x4. He even made a turned wooden candle to go with it. The project was well boxed (as are all Marco’s projects) and a display board accompanied the explanation. As always, an entertaining presentation.

Denis Reid was up next with a pair of painting easels made from a single 2x4 – its all in the thickness of the cuts. Both easels used wedges for adjustment instead of screws. Ingenious design feature, and well executed! These easels could be used for either displaying finished works of art, or to hold a bare canvas, ready for paint. The finish was



Denis Reid

plain old mineral oil from the local drugstore.

Dan Lemire then presented a fabulous small cabinet which incorporated most if not all the guidelines of the Challenge. Dan wanted to create a turned bowl inside a square shape, and he did it with gusto. The cabinet had a turned bowl top (with turned lid) and book-matched sides which accented the figure and defects in the wood to tremendous advantage. The cabinet sat on a base to give it more weight and a finished look. Doors were hinged on turned pins and fitted

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Dan Lemire

very well (the hardest part of the project according to Dan). No finish was applied to the project, the pieces were simply buffed with a



Phil Laliberte

wheel inside and out.

Phil Laliberte followed with a pair of “mystique ladies”. No, Phil had not been out charming the local female population, these ladies were immortalized on a pair of matching (but different) three ring binders. The images of the ladies were carved (by CNC router of course) into the covers of the binders. Hinges were also made of wood, with wooden hinge pins. The project was made from vertical (edge) grain fir as a demonstration of what that material would look like when carved. (Looked pretty good to me!) The binders were finished with tung oil and bees wax.

Rounding out the Expert category was **Marco** presenting his second piece of the night. In this case it was a WUSAK – a Woodworkers Ultimate Swiss Army Knife. This steroid enhanced Wenger look-a-like would be useful to cut the large block of home-made Swiss



Marco Berera

cheese (made from sawdust and glue in a mold) which accompanied the knife. The knife featured a large blade, tweezers, screwdriver, toothpick, awl and a tool compartment inside which when opened revealed, what else, more tools. Marco then showed off the miniature Oneway lathe and bandsaw concealed inside the WUSAK. The attention to detail was, as always, superb. Wheels turned and tables tilted on these miniatures. Marco stated that he lost count after spending over 170 hours on the project and it was easy to see that this was no exaggeration, unlike some of the other tall tales Marco has treated us to.

That wrapped up the presentations, and we proceeded to the voting and presentation of

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hardware (or in this case, hardwood).

The following were winners in their category:

- Best First Time entry – Erich
- Best Quickie project – Ted
- Most Original entry – Dan
- Best Craftsmanship – Marco
- Best 2x4 project – Gordon (for the paperclip – go figure!)

- Peoples Choice (past projects) - Marco (printing press)
- Best Novice entry – Gordon
- Best Expert entry – Marco

An entertaining time was had by all – woodworkers and guests alike. Many thanks to the entrants, Paulin for the organization, Bill for the food and beverages, and the guests who came out to see what fun woodworking can be. See you all next year.

2005 2x4 Challenge Photo Gallery



Paulin Laberge explaining the rules of the 2x4 Challenge



Reindeers—Ted Fromson



Bandsaw Box—Gordon Bednard



Wine Rack—Gordon Bednard

2005 2x4 Challenge Photo Gallery (con't)



Giant Paper Clip—Gordon Bednard



Cherry Plant Stand—Erich Bartens



Candle Holder—Marco Berera



Cabinet—Dan Lemire

2005 2x4 Challenge Photo Gallery (con't)



Painter's Easels—Denis Reid



3-Ring Binders—Phil Laliberte



*Woodworkers Ultimate Swiss Army Knife—
Marco Berera*



*2x4 Challenge Organizers Paul Townsend
and Paulin Laberge*

2x4 Challenge Photos Wanted

We're started to collect pictures for the 2004 2x4 Challenge photo gallery on the website. If you have some photos to share please email them to Steve Fairbairn at sgfmail@shaw.ca. Please send them in the original format that came out of your camera without any resizing, cropping or other post processing.

