

When Last We Met

By Gord Bednard

With only one week to go before our country would be plunged into another election and roll the dice on new (or retread) leadership, the January meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild opened on another rainy night in Richmond. Now to be fair, it wasn't just

worry, I'll get to the meeting stuff later, I promise) it is interesting to be able to do the write-up for the meeting several weeks after the event. This has several advantages: 1) your scribe has time to reflect on the goings-on at the meeting and develop some text which makes it sound like we don't just use the meetings as an excuse to hide out at Bill's shop for one night each month; 2) your scribe can seem almost prescient (thought you'd get away unscathed, eh?) in describing things which have yet to happen in the past tense; and 3) procrastinating on the write-up appears to drive the editor and the publisher of this newsletter to distraction, for which I continue to apologize.

But really, if the humans ever decided to just get along with each other, and therefore dispense with the necessity of having a group of people tell us how to live and why it's such a good idea to vote for them every four or so years, then we would have to invent such a group just to provide comedy relief. The election itself, and the subsequent goings-on in Ottawa are the kinds of things which fill the monologues of stand-up comedians everywhere. Imagine, a country where a party that wants to break the country into two, may hold the balance of power, and where light-footed MP's can't seem to stay dancing with the "one what brung 'em". I guess you just have to keep a sense of humour about all of it, lest you go mad. Oh well, it's not like its something important, like who won at the Oscars!

Meanwhile, back at Bill's shop, the pre-meeting demo had begun with **Wally Sommerfeld** showing the crowd a method for removing rust from tools without scraping or sanding. This is important for all you tool collector/restorer types as apparently the value of a tool can be reduced by clumsy attempts at cleaning/refurbishing/restoring. The method Wally demonstrated was electrical in nature, using a battery charger hooked

(Continued on page 3)

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Feb. 21st.



raining in Richmond, it was pretty much raining all over the Lower Mainland, and had been for the past 6 weeks. And really, the rain in Richmond is akin to a light mist or heavy fog compared to the Niagara of rain falling on the North Shore where your humble scribe resides. Nonetheless rumour was abounding that **Paulin Laberge** was thinking of changing the theme of the *2 X 4 Challenge* to "best use of a 2X4 for construction of a floating object" – arks would of course get extra bonus points. (Entries from anyone named Noah would likely be an automatic win).

However, rain aside, to return to the initial topic of this piece, which was politics (don't



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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>	David Sweet
<i>Reporter</i>	Gordon Bednard
	Steve Hansen
	TBA
<i>Guild Liaison</i>	Steve Fairbairn
<i>Webmaster</i>	Paul Blattler
<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, February 21st starting at 7:00pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the March newsletter is March 12th. 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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| * February 21, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting | Guild Meeting |
| * March 21, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting | * June 20, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting |
| * April 18, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting | * September 19, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting |
| * May 16, 2006 —Pacific Woodworkers | |

When Last We Met (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

up to electrodes hung in a 5 gallon pale of diluted washing soda, and the other electrode to the tool which is suspended in the solution. With the negative side of the charger hooked up to the item to be cleaned, a current is induced through the washing soda solution which dissolves the rust but leaves the "good" metal unscathed. There are many different solutions which can be used including molasses, table salt, lye, etc. The electrodes can be as simple as clean rebar pieces but avoid using stainless steel electrodes as they produce a toxic by-product. The more powerful the electrical supply (must be DC current, not household AC!!) the faster the process goes. Wally suggests a search on the internet for more in-depth information, and provided the web address: www.antique-engines.com as a start.

Following the demo (thanks Wally!) there was the introductions of visitors and guests which included: **Steve Bailey** who saw our booth at the Cloverdale show and is currently building a shop; and **George** from the Fraser Valley Guild. The PWG trusts these gentlemen find some enjoyment in the meeting and a reason to return next month beyond the great coffee served by Bill's catering service.

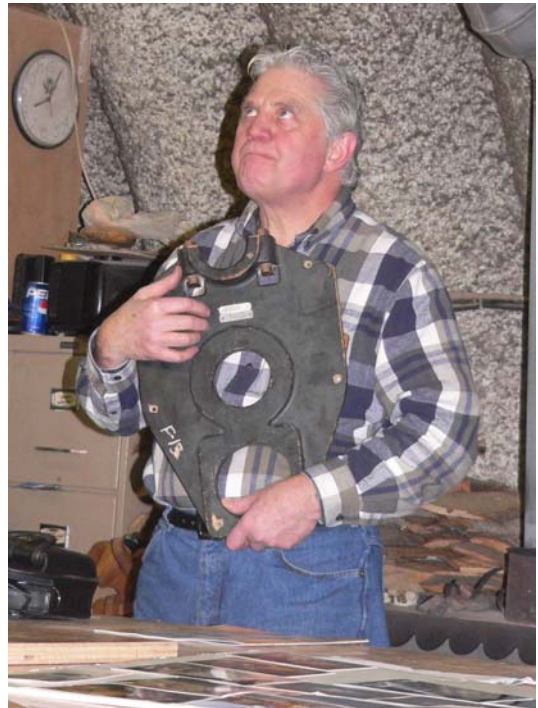
Presentation:

The main event was a presentation by our own **Marco Berera**. He spoke about the apprentice program he had gone through to become a model carpenter (in the Swiss vernacular) or pattern maker (as we Canucks would say), and the process of making a three dimensional model for casting of machine parts.

The process involved laying out the item at 1:1 scale, with the dimensions taken from blueprints. Pieces are then made to exact specifications and assembled with some being turned to size on the lathe. There also has to be a core box made to create the empty space inside the item being made. Models have to be somewhat larger than the "real-life item as metal shrinks when it cools. The model is then set in sand or some other casting medium and the impression is then filled with metal to make a casting. The casting is then machined to final dimensions. (I'm sure I left some steps out as I was too

busy both laughing and groaning at the jokes coming from Marco during the presentation.)

The apprenticeship program lasted 4 years. We don't have anything even remotely resembling it in Canada, according to Marco. All accomplishments were recorded in various books, from army service to physical training (in Marco's case boxing!) and recording of work completed. Often the first task for a new apprentice was to construct his/her own tool box. Examinations included three-day tests with four hour examinations by experts.



Altogether, Marco's presentation was very entertaining and very well received.

Following the presentation there was a break for approximately 25 minutes of networking, tall tales and coffee. Then it was back to the serious business of woodworking:

- The web forum is up on the website. There will be a tutorial in the near future for this feature which is only accessible by members
- Dues are due – see **Lou Hafer** to pay up.
- Executive meeting to be held in February – time TBA, will likely be held at Ivan's
- The "Olympic Wood" appears to be gone – an explanation may be forthcoming

(Continued on page 4)

When Last We Met (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

next meeting.

- Mention was made of an outfit called "Timeline Sales" who not only sold fleece items but had some 5/8 Okume plywood on sale for \$ 22.50 per sheet. The place is due east of the Marine Drive Lee Valley Tools location.
- **Guy** has a table saw for sale (described as either mature or miniature – I can't read my notes). He will also be in contact with a lady who paints church icons who may be coming to speak at a Guild meeting.
- Only 3 months to the *2X4 Challenge* "stuff that you would use in your hands". The question was raised " Can you start with a piece of furniture and end up with a 2X4?" Sensibly, there was no response to this question and the questioner was made to stand in the corner until he agreed to behave.
- The newsletter editor spoke eloquently regarding the need for content to be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the next meeting to allow for publication and distribution. Remember people: no submissions = no newsletter
- The president (long may he hold office) issued a challenge for each member to bring a joint to the next meeting. This raised many a question and furrowed eyebrow until it was clarified that the aforementioned joint was not to be the home-grown but the hand-made from wood variety. Groans of dissatisfaction from all those children of the 60's were heard.

- Venues for woodwork sales were discussed with "Circle Craft" on Granville Island being mentioned as an alternative to the *Wood Co-op*. Another place with no specific name and only a vague description of location (Commercial Drive across from the park) was mentioned. Your intrepid scribe was there last week trying to find such a place but was unsuccessful due to either poor eyesight (possible), lack of existence of such a place (more likely) or too much inhaling near the non-woodworking joint shops on Commercial (way too likely, dude!). Anyone with further information regarding possible sales venues, please bring the information to the next meeting.
- Next meeting: February 21.

Show and tell:

A large burly woodsman type of guy (whose name I didn't catch –help Mr Editor) showed off a large (5 foot tall) chainsaw carved face, done in cedar. Great job for his first attempt. Marco, not having had enough of the limelight) had brought some scroll-sawn "pictures" of Finn Slough in Richmond. One was painted and one stained. Both looked great and made that area look almost attractive.

The raffle was held and the members dispersed into the gloom of the night.

See you all in February
Cheers, GB

President's Message

By Ivan Antoniw

I'm going to keep on talking about design and ask a very pertinent question about designed objects. Do you get what you pay for? This past Friday I had the opportunity to take in the big boat show down at BC Place. My reason for going was two fold: 1) this has become an annual thing that a few buddies get together to do. We eat a few good steaks at Wilson's and enjoy some fine wines. The second reason was to actually look at some boats.

The boat show has it all and, as a woodworker (believe it or not) I did not make it over to wooden boat alley. The reality is that

it was not high on my agenda. As nice as a wooden boat might be they are a pain to maintain, and more so, not suitable for my needs. I spent most of my time looking at a 22' C-Dory made in Auburn Washington (www.c-dory.com). A good boat, nice and sturdy, designed with function in mind (first and foremost) and dead simple. It's just the thing to get me and my family and friends in and around Howe Sound. I even caught my wife reading the brochure as she ate her cereal this morning (a hopeful sign).

I subscribe to a very simply philosophy when

(Continued on page 5)

President's Message (con't)

it comes to buying stuff; buy the best I can afford and don't buy more than I need. Also don't buy less than I need, because I hate having to upgrade. I know a guy (pressured by ecologically minded family) who bought a brand new 2 wheel drive Ford Expedition (with the small V8) to haul his boat around (23' aluminium fishing boat) and had to trade it in two weeks later for the up-engined four wheel drive because he couldn't haul his boat out of the water. That truck dealer still sends him Christmas cards.

Now you may be wondering what all this has to do with woodworking, especially since I didn't check out wooden boat alley (actually the C-Dory's hull has its fibreglass laid up around a balsa core)? It's about design and what a customer is looking for. The boats at the show ranged from inflatables to \$600,000+ 46 foot yachts. The vendors at a show like this know their market, and they've designed their products to suit. One sales rep estimated (based on previous shows this year as compared to last) that he should sell 170 or so \$25,000+ ski boats and people will be buying them for a number of different reasons

We as woodworkers need to have a similar sort of savvy, and I'm not just talking about

having a planer that can do the job without straining. When making something the first question you have to ask is "Who am I making this for?" Does the person who I am making this for appreciate quality and are they willing to pay for it? I don't have to tell you folks just how pleasurable wood can make you feel, its one of the things about the product that sells itself, but it's what you impart to those pieces of wood that makes all the difference.

A lot of the Tupperware that is sold at a show like this is sold on sex appeal. You look at the decks (teak in some cases) of some of these boats and you can almost taste the beer and see the bikinis, however, and this is important, the guys who sell the most boats have boats that work well. The hull is shaped right, the balance is good and it has the right amount of engine (there are some who say you can never have enough power, but then not all of us need to evade the Coast Guard on a midnight run). Similarly, a piece of furniture, say a chair, not only has to look good it has to be comfortable as well. As to whether or not that chair has any value, meaning, are you getting what you pay for... well there are a lot of high priced boats out there, some even come with a stand up shower or two on board. I guess it all depends on how much you are willing to spend.

Woodworking On The Net

By Stephen Bailey

I have a few links I have enjoyed browsing through that I'd like to share. I'll try to pick a couple subject areas each month. I encourage feedback and for requested subject matter.

Safety: I have been working in manufacturing for 20 years and "Safety First" attitude is ingrained so I'll start with that. The effects of wood dust, especially some exotic species are becoming more common knowledge. Bill Pentz's page has all you need to know to set up an effective dust collection system including building your own cyclone. <http://billpentz.com/woodworking/cyclone/index.cfm>

Tools: From hand tools to machinery, we love them. Adria Toolworks is a local company (1 man operation as far as I can tell) that makes high quality hand saws. I think they look better than the Lie-Neilsen Inde-

pendence saws. Eddie Sirotych may be some one to consider as a meeting speaker or maybe arrange a plant tour. <http://www.adriatools.com/>

Old Wood Working Machines contains a historical record and registry complete with many photos of older machines. <http://www.owwm.com/>

Finished Product: Although I am just getting started and my skills are underdeveloped. I enjoy seeing what can be accomplished and which inspires me, so here is a site that shows well crafted products. Lauren Waters is local (well BC, anyways) <http://www.laurenwaters.com/>

Another Guild: South Florida Woodworking Guild's gallery has some nice stuff and, interestingly, links to Vancouver based Straight-line Designs. <http://www.sfwg.org/index.html>