

When Last We Met

By Gord Bednard

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday Jan. 17th.

It certainly felt like one of the shortest days of the year, that December 20 when your intrepid scribe rolled down Steveston Highway towards Bill's shop and the monthly meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild. One of the tell-tale signs of a long night (and the nightmares that go with it) was the fact that Canadians would be enduring a warming trend in the weather thanks to the hot air blasts coming from Ottawa throughout the election campaign. As I write this missive, the snowcap on the local mountains is just now recovering from the earliest of these eastern Canadian greetings. Or maybe its just global warming, a thought that somehow frightens me less than the prospect of listening to politicians for the next two weeks solid. I wonder if David Suzuki has ever considered the generally beneficial effects the world would enjoy by all nations banning politicians. I'll have to bring it up to him and the UN the next time I see either.

And speaking of politicians, has anyone noticed that there hasn't been one announcement directed at the woodworkers of this country regarding how they will benefit by electing whatever party. It seems everyone else will be better off if they elect so-and-so to office, including doctors, businessmen, Olympians, etc., but not one word have I heard about how every woodworker will find the price of tools and wood will be reduced or not taxed in the future. I think the pundits are missing a huge demographic here. I'll be bringing this notion to the fore at the next press conference I attend.

So what has this to do with the last meeting, you patiently ask?? Well, absolutely nothing and I will refrain from any painfully bad jokes about politicians and wooden party platforms.

Okay, painfully bad jokes aside, the December meeting began with another in what promises to be a series of wood and veneer buying frenzies as the folks from MVL Spe-

cialty Woods dropped by with another supply of curly grained maple boards and veneers. Many smiles were seen and much wood was cached away before the meeting began in earnest. MVL also donated some veneer to the raffle which two lucky members scored. MVL can be reached at 604-612-1496.

While this was going on, a somewhat informal tool exchange and sale was happening amongst members. Your scribe, noted far and wide for his generosity (a quality second only to his modesty) gave away some electric motors which had been cluttering his shop for some time, and some sawhorse brackets which I'm assured make great stocking stuffers. Other items exchanged shops and found new owners, and the secret toolbox was placed on display for auction at the end of the night.

Our presenter on this evening was none other than President **Ivan** (remember, it's pronounced "Ivan") who dimmed the lights and regaled the members with tales of tree falling and portable sawmill operation on Bowen Island. It looked to be a great outing, but might be considered to be just a tad too much work for a 2X4 for the next Challenge. Your scribe hopes some of the photos he presented make it into a future issue of the newsletter.

Following Ivan's presentation, we had "Show and Tell" which featured:

- **Marco** reporting on his adventures in Portland at a 2X4 contest held there with his WUSAK (the big knife).
- **Katie**, with her thanks for help with the toy workshops, and although turnout was poor this year, there were some toys donated to the *Christmas Bureau*.
- **Ivan**, who encouraged all members to donate items to charitable organizations (i.e. silent auctions) as a way of raising

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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

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 Lou Hafer
 Paulin Laberge
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Cloverdale Show

TBA
 TBA
 David Pye
 Bill Fox
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Other Shows
Christmas Toy Work-
Fundraising/Raffle
Chauffeur
Library

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Pacific Woodworkers Guild will be held on Tuesday, January 17th starting at 7:00pm. Pre-meeting demo at 6:30.

Newsletter Submissions

Deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is February 10th. Please send your submission to the editor: Steve Hansen at urquell@shaw.ca or contact by phone for snail mail address.

Calendar Of Events

- * **January 17, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **February 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **March 21, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **April 18, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **May 16, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **June 20, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting
- * **September 19, 2006**—Pacific Woodworkers Guild Meeting

When Last We Met (con't)

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- your personal and professional profile (and most importantly because there is a real need out there and it's a good thing to do).
- **Denis** showed off a segmented wooden palm tree which was an addition to the nativity scenes he has made for family and friends over the years. It comes apart into four pieces for storage and was made of walnut.
 - **Klaus** had brought some bowls he had turned in yellow cedar and laburnum and warned the members that these are both toxic and to use caution when woodworking with these species. He used a wipe-on urethane by Minwax for finishing.
 - **Ivan** brought his cross-cut sled for table saws. Very nicely done (better than most of my finished work) with chamfered edges no less!
 - **Marco** was back with his drum sanding jig which attached to a lathe and was adjustable for thickness.
 - **Paulin** had a jointer made with a block plane integrated into the jig. You pull the wood over the jig which is fixed in a

vice.

- **Peter** had a jig for cutting wedges on the table saw. He needed many, many wedges to quiet a squeaky floor.
- **Dave** brought some saw guides for dovetailing on ½ inch wood – a simple but elegant and effective design.
- **Wally** displayed a pre-1850 triangle shaped clamp with hand-cut slots for screws, which was used for planing miter joints.
- **Leigh** showed off a zebrawood box and initiated a discussion of the utility of the Wood Co-op on Granville Island. This led to a lengthy discussion of other galleries (and galleries in general) and how they operate, and the potential for marketing products on-line.

And with the raffle, the meeting concluded with **Paulin** paying \$35 for the mystery toolbox and vowed to re-sell it next year with new and even heavier contents, and **Ivan** paying \$25 for a piece of quilted maple. Proceeds to charity.

Happy New Year from your faithful if not tardy scribe.

PWG Website Members Only Area

By Steve Fairbairn

The long awaited Member's Only area on the Pacific Woodworkers Guild website is now online and ready for members to use.

The Member's Only area consists of online messaging forums where you can have discussions with other members, post photos for other members to see, make announcements or ask other members for advice.

To access the Member's Only area there is a new button on the PWG website menu or you can point your web browser at <http://pwwg.ca/Members.htm>

Important: Before you can access the Member's Only area you will need to register online by creating a username and password

and by providing your email address. Your username should be your first and last name separated by an underscore (_). For example, if your name is John Smith then your username should be John_Smith. The email address that you provide must be the same email address that the PWG has on file for you so that we can verify your username. If you use a different email address we will not be able to verify your username. Verification is not automated so it may take anywhere from an hour to a day for your registration to be verified and your new account activated.

If you have any questions at all regarding the registration process or any aspect of using the new features, feel free to contact me via email at sgfmail at shaw dot ca.

President's Message

By Ivan Antoniw



When looking for inspiration while writing, there comes a time when you just gotta bite the bullet and bullshit, or at least pick a topic that no one else knows about. I was toying with the idea of doing a list of resolutions, just like every other hack that has to meet a deadline, but then I thought hey! I didn't do an annual retrospective last month, no sense in sullyng an oh and one record. Notice how I'm filling valuable column inches just by pointing out the obvious (I should try writing for *The Province*). I will however make a resolution this year... and that is to make a lot more stuff out of wood (not that I want to consume whole forests of lumber for the sake of profit).

I love just making stuff up. As a kid my favourite toy was Lego and it still is. There is something very calming about having such a primary building module, and it taught me some very basic and elegant things about design, and that is to make the best use of what you've got. In a round about way (I believe the literary term is segue) we come to the topic that many of us know very little about, design.

This is how my resolution about making stuff relates to design. There is a movement in art that ascribes its aesthetic to the use of found objects (applies to poetry in the form of found words). I resolve to use only materials that I have at hand (in inventory) or that I find, or that I am given, in the making of objects, until I have used up my inventory. Just to give some of you an idea of just how daunting a task that is, I currently have twelve and a half cubic meters of fir logs on Bowen and I've just added the bigger chunks of an eighty year old walnut to that stock.

This past week I have started acting on that resolution in the form of a desk for my shop. The body is made of an old steel lateral filing cabinet and off cuts of plywood lying about my shop. Through my efforts I hope to consume less raw material, give off-casts a second life and try to convert the embodied energy of materials into something more useful than landfill.

What else did you expect from a Green Party member? Don't forget to exercise your franchise and vote.

Tools—A Primer

Author Unknown

Submitted By Paulin Laberge

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted auto part you were drying.

BELT SANDER: Used for making rectangular gouges in wood.

PAD SANDER: Used for easing the edges of the rectangular gouges.

RANDOM ORBIT SANDER: Used for removing the marks left by the PAD SANDER, usually on any surface perpendicular to the original gouge. May also be used to make semicircular gouges in wood.

DETAIL SANDER: Makes triangular gouges, generally in blind corners.

BISCUIT JOINER: Tool used to misalign wood in a very consistent manner which can then be sanded heavily (See BELT SANDER).

CHISEL: Multi use tool - good for making deep cuts in the hand.

CORDLESS DRILL/POWER SCREWDRIVER: Used for rounding out Phillips screw heads at high speed.

ROUTER: Used to darken wood by friction and make smoke. For this latter purpose, it replaces the incense used by primitive wood-working cultures who wished to influence the woodworking deities. When used with a

ROUTER TABLE: this tool can be used to make varying profiles using a single bit and a single depth setting.

TAPE MEASURE: This device is used to measure length. It should be immediately dropped onto concrete several times so that measurements made with it will then agree with every other TAPE MEASURE in the world.

NAILSET: Used to make small, round depressions around the head of a finish nail. Principally used for decoration.

CLAMPS: These come in two sizes: too small and loaned to an in-law.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes

fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "Ouch...."

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age; with the proper accessories, used to destroy perfectly good wood in many ways.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

SABER SAW: See Hacksaw.

WISE-GRIPS: Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

ACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the bearing race out of.

WHITWORTH SOCKETS: Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or 1/2 socket that you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new disk brake pads, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

8-FOOT LONG 2X4: Used for levering an automobile upward off a hydraulic jack handle.

TWEEZERS: A tool for removing wood splinters.

PHONE: Tool for calling your neighbour's to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

PHONE (alt.): Tool for calling your brother-in-law to see if he has your CLAMPS ..

TABLE SAW: Used to make wood slightly nar-

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Tools—A Primer (con't)

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rower than necessary.

MITER SAW: Used to make wood slightly shorter than necessary.

THICKNESS PLANER: Used to make wood slightly thinner than necessary.

JOINTER: Used to make the too thin, too short, too narrow wood perfectly straight. Very useful for making two sides of a board perfectly straight but non-parallel.

SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER: Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for getting dog**** off your boot.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps off in bolt holes you couldn't use anyway.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the tensile strength on everything you forgot to disconnect.

CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

AVIATION METAL SNIPS: See hacksaw.

TROUBLE LIGHT: The home mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin," which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splash oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that takes

energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 2000 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last over-tightened 58 years ago by someone at ERCO, and neatly rounds off their heads.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

HAMMER (alt.): Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer continues to be the tool of choice for making medium sized circular depressions in wooden surfaces of all kinds.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts.

UTILITY KNIFE (alt.): Used to slice through the fingers. For purposes of sanitation, the blades are easily replaceable.

DAMMIT TOOL: Any handy tool that you grab and throw across the garage while yelling "DAMMIT" at the top of your lungs. It's also the next tool that you will need.

EXPLETIVE: A balm, usually applied verbally in hindsight, which somehow eases those pains and indignities following our every deficiency in foresight.

My brother's favourite tool would be the DAMMIT TOOL. I have seen him throw many different shaped DAMMIT TOOLS across his shop. After he has thrown it he has a cup of coffee, a smoke and then goes over and picks up the DAMMIT TOOL and uses it to complete the job. Darndest thing I ever saw but it works for him.....