



Tidewater Woodworkers Guild

February 2024

Woodworking: Plans, Process, Sharp Tools, Technique

President's Notes – Terry Nienaber

Our January meeting kicked off the new year with a focus on workshop safety and workflow improvements. We had discussion around both injury avoidance and thinking through a plan if we get injured when no one is around. Planning for these things before they happen can make a huge difference, and worth your time!

At our benchtop discussion in January, Jim Francis showed attendees his techniques for replicating door frames and window sashes for the Hampton streetcar restoration project. I'm inspired by his skillful blend of hand tools and power tool techniques in his work.

In the February discussion we had a number of show and tell articles, including Tim Roach's progress in hand carved lettering, Bob Smith's mechanical CNC engraved flower scenes, and two of my recent laser engraving projects. We talked a bit about epoxy-filled serving trays, and Dennis Nahorney shared his techniques for filling, flattening, and finishing, as well as his use of silicone molds for minimizing effort in setting up forms.

We also partnered with Woodcraft to support five workshops to help local BSA Cubscout Packs cut their pinewood derby cars in January and February.

Now it's our turn to have a little fun with derby cars. Chris Zuchristian issued our first guild challenge for the year to create your own pinewood derby car and to race at Woodcraft at their March 23rd event. See below for more information on the challenge. Woodworkers, start your engines!

We'll see you at the meetings!
Terry Nienaber, TWWWG President

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A whole bunch of pinewood derby roadies! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported this derby build season effort!

January Safety Meeting Highlights – Terry Nienaber

There were nine entries for the President's mini-challenge, which was to submit workshop changes to improve safety or workflow. Photos were presented in slideshow mode for some of the entries, and submitters were given an opportunity to talk about what they did. Submissions were printed and drawn from a bowl, and Gary Stephens' deck and pop-up spray booth were drawn as the winner of the \$50 Woodcraft gift card.



Gary's deck and spray booth

There was good participation from the members present at the meeting. Incidents, near misses, and general tips that we often forget were offered up by a number of presenters. Reminders and tips included:

- Fixture your work properly and keep your body out of the path of traveling sharp tools or potential projectiles at all times!
- If an incident occurs that is beyond a minor laceration, bypass the urgent care facility and go to a hospital emergency room.
- If working alone, have a plan for how to get help (e.g. easy dialing of cell phone, voice commands from an Echo or other smart device, have people check on you) in case of an emergency. Note that some insurance companies may offer "Lifeline" devices.
- Consider covering the lower half of storm doors with non-transparent material. Fully transparent door panels are frequently "walked through".
- Annually review the placement and age of your fire extinguishers. It's likely cheaper to replace them than to recertify.
- When you leave the shop for the evening, consider removing power to devices that cycle, like air compressors. They can cause a fire if they stall or rupture, and then run continuously.
- Consider any window as a possible "lens" that may focus the sun's heat and cause a fire if that heat is directed at objects in the shop. Watch for deformed/charred items as a sign of danger.
- Gary Stephens showed the miter saw hold-down safety stick shown on the Stumpy Nubs YouTube video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76_nOXh5zDw. The stick is made by FastCap and is available on Amazon.



FastCap hold-down stick

TWWWG Programs - Chris Zuchristian

UPCOMING GUILD PROGRAMS 2024		
26-Feb	25-Mar	22-Apr
<i>6:30-8:30</i>	<i>6:30-8:30</i>	<i>6:30-8:30</i>
Mike Charlem	Jim Francis	Ryan Evans & Members
Band Saw (Set up, Tune up, and how to resaw)	Carving techniques	Jigs Types and Construction Members bring in Favorite Jigs

Great programs are scheduled for you in the next three months starting in February with Mike Charlem demonstrating how to properly set up and adjust a band saw. Jim Francis will educate us on the finer points of carving techniques in March, and by popular demand, a “Jigs” presentation led by Ryan Evans will occur in April. This event will include member participation, so bring in your favorite jigs, or pictures, to present to our members.

During each meeting, we will include door prize(s), raffles, and “Show & Tell”. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Upon arrival, drop off your show & tell and raffle donation items on the tables near the entrance. Cheryl Davis and Dennis Nahorney will be available to register new members and collect dues. 2024 annual dues (\$20) are due in February. Be sure to pick up your member nametag from John Tirey and your door prize ticket from Chris Zuchristian before catching up with friends until the start of the program at 6:30 PM sharp.

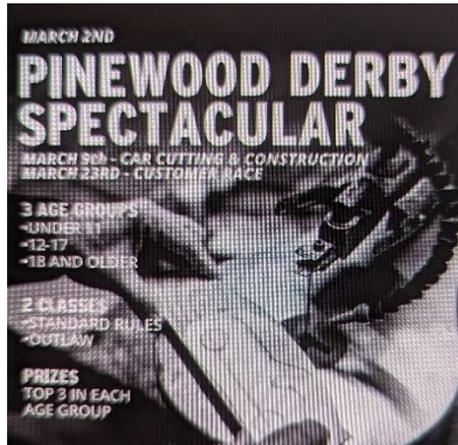
We are supporting a raffle each month, so bring in/donate to the Guild your slightly used tools or items that you no longer need. The raffles will be held during intermission. \$1 gets you one ticket; \$5 gets you six tickets. See Cheryl Davis or Chris Zuchristian to purchase the tickets. Make sure you bring small \$ bills. Based on participation, we will also sell tickets for a 50/50 raffle. All profits from the raffles will go toward the PHP Bench Brigade fund; so bring a few extra dollars.

Before intermission, “Show & Tell” participants will present their project, including a brief description of the project (e.g. wood type, other material, joinery, finish, challenges, etc.). Each brief should be no longer than 2- 3 minutes.

After the intermission, our featured program will begin. Feel free to kick back and enjoy the show. Once the demonstration and discussions are finished, we will announce the winners of the door prize(s)/raffles, provide concluding remarks, then end the meeting.

Challenges - Chris Zuchristian

Our first Challenge for 2024 will be the Pinewood Derby Spectacular at Woodcraft.



The gauntlet has been thrown. That's right, Ed Sontag's Woodcraft Team has challenged the TWWWG to a race. Who can build the fastest pinewood derby car?

There are two divisions of cars:

1. Standard "Boy Scout Rules" Cars
2. Outlaw (Needs to be at least 51% wood)

Here are rules:

- All vehicles must fit in the box's length, width, and height: 7 in L x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in W x 4 in H.
- All vehicles must clear the track's center guide strip, which is $\frac{3}{8}$ in H x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in W.
- Vehicles must weigh 16 oz (1 lb) or less.
- All decorations and attachments must be securely affixed.
- No loose materials, such as lead shot, may be used.
- No part of the car can come loose or be ejected from the car during the race.
- The race is gravity driven only. No additional propulsion (no propellants, propellers, motors, etc.) is allowed.

Woodcraft is selling the Pinewood Derby Kits for \$8.99. Ed has 48 kits at the front counter, so pick up your kit soon.

Woodcraft is also sponsoring a day to cut your cars on 9 March if you would like to use their equipment. We will be looking for volunteers to help the other non-Woodcraft/TWWWG contestants cut their cars that day. More information on that during the February meeting.

Race Day is March 23rd at Woodcraft. Time is to be determined. No prizes from the Guild, just bragging rights for the best build and fast cars. Bring your pinewood cars to our meeting on March 25th to show off your creations to the members.

Purple Heart Project (PHP) Bench Brigade – Chris Zuchristian

PHP is a non-profit organization established by Canadian woodworking teacher and hand tool maker Rob Cosman. The PHP mission is to teach hand tool woodworking to combat wounded veterans as a form of distractive therapy for PTSD and physical pain. All expenses for vets are paid by the PHP.

2024 PHP class schedule:

- Apr 15-20
- May 6-11
- Jun 10-15
- Jul 8-13
- Sep 23-28
- Oct 21-26



Over the years, several of the combat Wounded Warriors who received a PHP scholarship told the PHP that they were challenged to continue with their new woodworking skills when they returned home as they did not have a proper hand tool workbench. Retired U.S Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Jack Lane volunteered to lead the building effort. Jack developed the idea of a network of volunteer woodworkers who would fund, build, and deliver a Cosman Workbench to each PHP selectee once they returned home from their training at Rob Cosman’s workshop; thus the Bench Brigade was born. TWWWG joined the Bench Brigade effort in June of 2023. To date, the TWWWG members with partners Woodcraft, Wurth, Marine Corps League and private donors have constructed and delivered five workbenches to very grateful veterans.

We will begin again in April, 2024. We will find out how many benches are needed for our area a week before the PHP class begins. The TWWWG board has authorized funding for up to two workbenches for the year, but additional funding is required to do more. We will be asking for volunteers to help with fundraising throughout the year. I request members assistance in identifying partners and donors throughout the year. I (Chris Zuchristian) will gladly provide organizations presentations about the Bench Brigade. Contact me directly at cwmptz@yahoo.com. If someone would like to donate to this effort, we accept cash or checks. Checks should be made out to TWWWG, in the memo line write “Bench Brigade”. We are looking into electronic forms of payment. I will have more information soon.

Your support is appreciated. The more funds we can raise, the more vets we can serve. Thank you in advance.

Purple Heart Bench Brigade; Thanks

New member, Ed Stack, is part of the Marine Corp League, John A. Lejeune Detachment 332, who donated \$500 toward the PHP Bench Brigade Funds.

Building a Sam Maloof Inspired Rocker Chair – Scott Paris

Now that we are back in the newsletter publishing business I thought I would catch you up on where I am at on the Maloof rocker build. Well, It's a rocker. Yes, the rocker sleds have been attached and in fact we are virtually ready for finish, but more on that later. Here is a picture I took back in early November with the rockers glued to the legs.

The legs, as I might have mentioned previously, were laminated. I believe there are 7 laminations of ~1/8" each (6 black walnut & 1 ash). I used Titebond III for this due to the extended open time as it does take some effort and time getting these in the form. Quite a messy task to say the least.

Speaking of glue, I am not sure I talked much about the glues I used, yes there were multiple glues used, 3 in fact. For most joints I used Titebond III. Again,

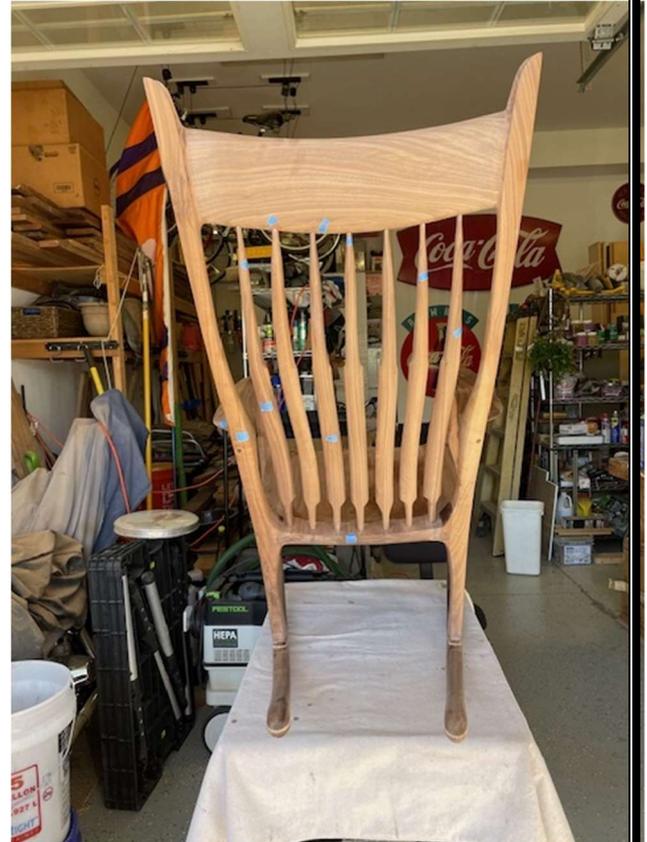


several of the joints and the laminations take time to fit, so this is a good choice due to the extended working time over Titebond I and II. To attach the rockers to the legs I used dowels and epoxy (West System 3). I imagine I could have used Titebond here as well, but epoxy was recommended so that is what I used. For the spindles I used Old Brown Glue which is like a hide glue for attaching the spindles to the seat and head rest. I will tell you right now that was the messiest glue up of the whole rocker with the exception of the rocker laminations. That was one glue up I wish I had some help with, as you are not only trying to get the spindles in their respective holes in the seat and headrest while at the same time positioning the headrest between the legs, then securing the whole assembly. One reason to use Old Brown glue or something similar to a hide glue is that you can heat the glue back up and reposition a spindle or even potentially replace a spindle if need be down the line. In fact you need to warm the glue up to even use it as it is quite thick when cool. It is also smelly stuff.

So most of November was spent shaping the rockers and doing more refinement on the rest of the rocker as I thought necessary. Then the rest was basically sanding, and sanding, and sanding. Going through the grits one at a time through 400. Not much got done in December due to making stuff for the holidays and traveling to visit family and stuff.

The next set of pictures shows basically the completed rocker after finish sanding to 400 grit and then wiping it down with mineral spirits to clean it. You may even see some areas that didn't quite dry when the picture was taken, but what I really wanted to show you are the pieces of blue tape you see scattered throughout the chair, but mainly on

the back of the spindles. These are areas that after cleaning I thought needed more attention. As mentioned, the glue up for the spindles and headrest was a difficult one to do alone. So there was a fair amount of glue dripping all over the place. Most of the blue taped areas are areas I need to do a little more sanding to get rid of some glue spots or maybe small ding that needed addressing while working on it.



So basically, I'm ready to put on the finish which I am waiting for the weather to warm up a bit as I am going to be using an oil finish. What oil finish am I going to use? Glad you asked. I plan on using the same finish that Sam used on his rockers. Sam made his own finish and there were two parts to it. The first part was a combination of boiled linseed oil, tung oil, and urethane in equal parts. He would apply several coats, wiping down the chair after each application and letting each application dry before applying another coat. After several coats of the first finish, he would then apply a mixture of boiled linseed oil, tung oil, and some beeswax. A couple coats of this mixture is applied with a lot of pressure and elbow grease, rubbing to the point your "fingers start getting hot" as Sam would say. This is similar to some of the so-called hard wax oils on the market today like Tried and True. Would it be easier to just buy a can of one of these, yes, but for this project, I want to stay as true to the process as I can. I imagine with drying time, work, etc. it will take a few weeks to complete the finishing process. So, I suspect the next time I will have pictures of the finished rocker.

TWWWG Support for High School FIRST Robotics Competition

Another heart-felt thanks for those that came out on January 13th to help construct mockups that help local robotics teams prepare for their upcoming tournaments in the 2024 FIRST Robotics Competition. The mockups are replicas of the competition “field elements” the teams will need to interact with. Think of them as complex field goal bars and backboard and rims of football and basketball. In total, we created four mockups, one of which stands over nine feet tall. They went to the Chesapeake Hickory team and to the Peninsula STEM Gym in Newport News, where any of the half-dozen local teams can practice operating their robot. If you want to see our future innovators in action, there is a local tournament of up to 28 teams in Churchland on March 8-10. See: <https://frc-events.firstinspires.org/2024/VAPOR>

Upcoming Events in the Woodworking World

- Purple Heart Bench Brigade Fundraising Outreach at Fermentory Brewery in Newport News: March 27th
 - Midwest Tool Collectors Association (<https://mwtca.org/>) Spring meeting: April 20, 2024 Harrisonburg, VA. Contact Vaughn Simmons, (540) 432-0617 simmmls@verizon.net for details. A great opportunity to see and buy old tools.
 - Society of American Period Furniture Makers (<https://sapfm.org/>) Spring Meeting: April 27, 2024. Contact Jim Francis (jfrancisjl@aol.com) for details. Even if you're into modern or post-modern furniture, knowing how classic furniture was built will help you be a better craftsman.
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To Keep You Informed; Links for Your Use

- Tidewater Woodworkers Guild Website (<https://www.twwwg.com/>)
 - Tidewater Woodworkers Guild Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TWWGFB>)
 - Purple Heart Project (<https://www.thepurpleheartproject.org/>)
 - Woodcraft Virginia Beach Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/woodcraft.beach>)
 - Hampton Streetcar 390 Project (<https://www.facebook.com/streetcar390/about>)
 - Colonial Williamsburg Furniture Collection (<https://emuseum.history.org/groups>)
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Editor's Notes – Jim Francis

- Thank you everyone for supporting the Guild's work (Streetcar 390, Purple Heart Bench Brigade and the Pinewood Derby), and for being enthusiastic supporters of our other Guild activities (i.e. meetings, show/tell, raffles).
- Feel free to send me (jfrancisjl@aol.com) news items you'd like to share with Guild members; i.e. your projects/pictures, technical articles, designs.
- The next newsletter will be issued in April.