

Woodworkers Club of Houston

**SEE YOU AT THE
MEETING ON
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9!**

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SUB-COMPACT POWER TOOLS

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Smaller seems to be the name of the game these days, whether you're shopping for a new car with great gas mileage, or a tool that gives great results. Sometimes you don't need the beefy 18v driver to get a small job done. Here are some of the newest offerings by the oldest names:



The Black and Decker SmartDriver may look like something from an episode of Star Trek, but the magnetic extension in front of the bit to hold the screw might be real handy. The lithium-ion battery provides 45 lb of torque, and at \$40, it won't torque your wallet.



The Skil IX03 also lists at \$40, and the guys at Wood Magazine say that it will drive about 40 3" screws before needing

a recharge, and it comes with a detachable right-angle driver head.



Old hands may frown at wanting a laser to help cut a straight line, but the saw that made Skil famous now features one in a 14-amp saw for \$69.



Bob Hunter of Wood Magazine says that even Porter-Cable is getting into the act, launching a set of "Tradesman" power tools that are better than entry level but won't break the bank like a professional-end model.

In the end, we all know you get what you pay for, and these items above aren't to be confused with professional-grade tools. But if you're building a toy duck instead of a two-level deck, or helping a youngster get interested in shop tools, these might be the way to go.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Steve Bukstel
Angus McCorquodale
Rich Duffy

What's keeping you
from seeing
your name here?

See p. 7 for
membership details.

MISSION TRIPPIN' ...

Hugh Poland

Leading a group of youth from my church on a mission trip to Pensacola this July brought back lots of memories. It's been almost 20 years since I went on my first construction mission trip to the Appalachians. I was leading a group of college students and single adults, and we were partnering with a small college in Kentucky to help build a house for a family in need.

The "holler" the house was located in was just on the KY/Tennessee border, and entering it was like stepping back in time. The head of the family was a man named Dallas, and he and his wife and four kids lived in a school bus—and it wasn't even a very nice school bus, circa 1940's. There was no running water—a creek behind them provided what they needed for cleaning, cooking, and bathing. A strand of Romex slithered along the ground from a pole at the edge of the property, supplying power to the one light bulb in the bus and perhaps a toaster oven.

A group had come in before us and laid a pier & beam foundation, so our job was to frame & dry in the house, then another group would do the interior finishing.

But when our group finally got to the worksite, we were presented with a serious problem. Seems ol' Dallas had a cousin that lived just across the creek on the other side of the holler, and the college had built him a house years before, when their techniques had not been perfected. The new owners of each house were expected to make house payments of \$25 a month, and help work on the jobsite.

But this cousin of Dallas was upset that another member of his clan would be receiving a house that was newer and better than his own. In his twisted logic, he burned down the house that had been built for him, and then demanded that they construct him a newer model.

Of course, this line of reasoning didn't work on the board that ran the program, and the cousin was told, "Sorry, one per customer." So to make things difficult, he began to blast away with ol' Betsy (a pump-action shotgun loaded with buckshot) across the holler every time he saw Dallas out and about. Dallas' truck was pockmarked with the evidence, and he couldn't even walk through the yard without his cousin taking aim at his noggin.



Not having any combat experience, and since they didn't teach us about retaliatory fire in seminary, I pulled our team off the jobsite, and requested a different assignment. They hooked us up with a different house-building project, and everyone was safe and sound all week long on the site.

This past week a group of novice kids and adults working with Habitat for Humanity hung doors & windows, installed sheathing, trusses, roof decking, tar paper & shingles. In effect, they dried in the house and learned a lot about themselves in the process.

If you ever have the chance to go on a mission trip, I highly encourage you to do so. What you build inside your heart may be more important than what you build for someone else.

TIPS FOR LEADING VOLUNTEER HAMMER-SLAMMERS

At some point, you may be asked to help guide a team of novice home-builders on a project for charity. Do you have what it takes?

Assess your team. If you're in the midst of experienced carpenters, you can expect the job will go fairly smoothly and be finished accordingly. If you're guiding high school students or inexperienced adults, it's important to take a step back and consider all that is going on. *Sometimes what is being built inside the heart of the volunteer is just as important as what is being built on the foundation of your project.*

Be patient. Carpenters and woodworkers have a language all their own, but hearty volunteers may not know a chalk line from a chow line. Help them have fun as they work, and they will return time and again to help serve others.

Safety first. Many volunteers haven't been on a job site before, and it's crazy to let them even walk across the slab without pointing out the typical dangers and hazards of the site and the tools you'll use. **Take frequent breaks.** Those who aren't used to swinging a hammer will thank you.

Rest and Reflect. At the end of the day, once everyone has cleaned up, find a restaurant and let people share what they've learned, and what the experience means to them.

ANNUAL BARBECUE SCHEDULED

BILL WHITE

Back by popular demand. The Woodworkers Club Board of Directors decided by vote that this year's picnic will be FREE to



members and their immediate families. As you probably realize the cost of food has gone up so it's pretty important that we get an accurate count of how many will attend. You may bring any number of guests you want but the cost will be \$8.00 each (children under 12 are free). Your guests may participate in the raffle, auction and contests as though they were members. If you know someone that might want to be a member this would be an excellent introduction to the Club. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the next couple of meetings. If you want to attend and can't make the meetings email or call Saul Harris. His contact info is in this newsletter.

Last year's fun and games lasted pretty late so we're starting the contests and demonstrations early this year. We'll publish a

schedule of activities soon but we plan to get started around 10:00 am. We'll wrap things up around 4:00. In between there'll

be fun, games, a raffle and an auction. Items are being collected and they won't disappoint. Oh, and let's not forget the BBQ. Two meats and all the trimmings. As usual we'll look to Club members to

donate dessert and any chips & dips they want to show off. That's always been a highlight.

Several activities have been planned. Contests will include nail driving, screw driving, planing and sawing. The object of most of these is to do it the fastest. The planing challenge is to create the longest, thinnest shaving from one swipe of the board. Last year we almost had to call 911 a couple of times. Old guys! This year we'll probably have medics standing by.



Bring your own tools—hammer, saw, plane and/or driver. You can enter as many contests as your heart can take.

A new addition to the day will be a band. Hugh Poland, our newsletter editor, is in a musical group that doesn't have anything better to do that Saturday so they've volunteered to play for us. Thanks, Hugh.

I think Saul Harris will be our auctioneer and Jim Robertson and his better half (Charlotte) will handle the raffle. Saul is getting his pipes warmed up. How much warmer do they need to be Saul?

So that's it. Give some serious thought to bringing someone that might want to be a Club member

or someone that just wants to have a good time.



Bob Wink brought quite an array of fun projects he has been working on. Shave and a haircut, anyone?



**JULY
SHOW
'N TELL**

**KNOW
WHAT'S
MISSING IN
THIS EMPTY
SPACE?
YOUR
PROJECT!**



Andy Anderson's ingenious puzzle has us all smiling.



Joseph Stassi stained the poplar bench to match a chair—we didn't know poplar could turn out so pretty! Note the slope of the legs, stretchers, and the beautiful finials.



Hugh Parker shares a gorgeous mahogany table constructed entirely with hand tools. Way to go, Hugh!



Gary Rowen has an answer to rising energy prices—this car for his granddaughter is easy on the eyes and the gas!



We could ask why a man who teaches shop safety would need a band-aid holder, but Mike seems to have all 10 digits, so we'll assume this is a creative and fun project for those who weren't listening to his talk on shop safety.



Can you even buy a bachelor's chest with the attention to detail that Jack Hutchison put in this? Crotch-walnut veneer, gleaming hardware, and the all-telling dovetail drawers make this a masterpiece!

CLUB NEWS AND VIEWS

Anyone going to the International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta Aug. 20-23? We'd love to see your pictures and interview you about your experience. Contact Hugh for more info.

Business cards with the WWCH contact info are now available. They feature the logo and the website, and are a great way to invite others to come to the meetings. Pick some up this next Saturday.

As WWCH nears its 25th anniversary, we would like to honor the memory of deceased members. If you have any names & info for any of our late members, please contact President Saul Harris.

Did you hear that the BBQ on Oct. 18 will be free to WWCH members and their immediate families? Save the date and invite your mate!

We're on the web!
www.wwch.org

Check out these WW blogs:

<http://sauerstandsteiner.com/news/>

<http://www.toolsforworkingwood.com/>

<http://www.popularwoodworking.com/blog3/>

<http://www.thewindsorinstitute.com/>

<http://lumberjocks.com/blogs>

Trading Post

FOR SALE

Routers, table saws, drill presses, and grinders. Contact Saul Harris—713-299-3785

Hinge Boring Machine with 35mm cup for Euro Cabinets. Contact Saul Harris or any member of the WWCH board for details.

Metal Commercial Shelving Components
Upright Brackets—12' x 18"—\$10 each
Shelves—35" x 18", 3/4 plywood—\$5 each
Sears 10" Radial Arm Saw \$100

Contact Andy Anderson at 713-723-1030 or anmdersn@hal-pc.org

WANTED

Need someone to craft a box for a cremation urn. Contact Harry at 281-597-1886.



Know what this is? Of course you do. It's a filler.

Trading Post ads are always free, but subject to available space. To place or remove an ad in the newsletter, contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or email hpoland@earthlink.net.

Ads will run one month at a time. If your item hasn't sold, contact Hugh to let him know you want the ad to run again the following month.

All ads must be placed 14 days before the 2nd Saturday monthly meeting. Of course, we invite you to post your WTB or FOR SALE items on the board in the meeting room.

WOOD BUGS ... THE GAS-POWERED KIND

Have you ever worked on a genuine "Woody," or helped restore wood grain on the interior of a car?

This man in Bosnia went one step further, and his effort is worthy of the Houston Art-Car parade.

I'm not able to translate Portuguese (the original article was featured on a Brazilian website) but the pictures tell the story.

The bug is covered with about 20,000 pieces of oak and varnished.



While this is interesting, give me the classic look of a true "Woody" any day. Let's go surfin' now, everybody's learning how!



1946 Pontiac Streamliner Station Wagon

THE LAST LAUGH

You know you're getting fat when you sit in your bathtub and the water in the toilet rises.

WWCH Purpose

The Woodworkers Club of Houston is a group of men and women of all ages and skill levels who promote, educate, and share the craft of woodworking. The club meets the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet at Hillcroft. Guests are always welcome at no charge. Membership dues are \$24 a year, or about the price you'd pay for one good clamp!

WWCH Contacts

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | Saul Harris | 713-299-3785 |
| Vice President | Mike Turner | 281-346-1544 |
| Secretary | Ed Zinni | 832-778-7830 |
| Treasurer | Bill Cole | 713-772-6697 |
| Publications | Bill White | 713-524-8768 |
| Mentor | Rich Thomas | 713-666-9073 |
| Mentor | Lon Kelley | 713-467-9011 |
| Mentor | Mark Bollinger | 281-544-6867 |
| Newsletter | Hugh Poland | 281-360-0673 |

Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

PO Box 815
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0815

Coming Events

Saturday, Aug. 12
Monthly Meeting at Bayland Comm. Center 9-11:30

First Friday of Every Month
Hand Tool Splinter Group in Sugar Land

Aug. 20-23
International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, GA

Saturday Sept. 27
Wild About Wood Girl Scout Woodworking Event

Saturday, October 18
Annual WWCH Picnic

To be sure your woodworking-related event is listed in this space, please contact Hugh Poland at 281-360-0673 or hpoland@earthlink.net.

The Cutting Edge offers only the finest woodworking tools and supplies.

Come visit and see our new and expanded store. We've kept all the best lines of supplies and equipment and added lumber and a few other surprises. We're still committed to providing the best sales and service in the Houston area. You won't be disappointed.

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- **Japanese Hand Tools**
- **Lumber from around the world**
- **Monthly Woodworking Classes**


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11760 S. Sam Houston Pkwy W.
713. 981. 9228