

Woodworkers Club of Houston

September 2005 • Volume 21, No. 9 • www.wwch.org

Workshop Crawl set for October.

By Steve Proctor

Four WWCH members in southwest Houston will be hosting "open shops" after the October meeting. **Jim Robertson, Mark Bolinger, Fred Sandoval and Steve Proctor** have generously invited Club members to visit their shops to see the different set ups, swap ideas and enjoy some woodworking camaraderie. Maps and directions will be available at the meeting prior to the event.

This is an opportunity to see fellow members in the workshops they have created. It's also an opportunity to see and discuss various tools, tool placement and project-making priorities. If this event is successful, we will conduct other shop crawls in different sectors of the Houston area.

Workshop Crawl Saturday October 8, 1 to 5 PM

Evolution of a Shop

We all know woodworkers who are more interested in the technology of woodworking, than woodworking itself. A great shop with all the latest, most expensive toys-err, tools doesn't guarantee great craftsmanship. Skill and effort trump fancy tools every time. But a properly equipped shop can certainly make specific tasks easier. Most of us try to evolve our shops to be as close to our "ideal" as resources permit. The evolving can go on for nearly a lifetime, and many of us by choice or necessity have a series of shops.

Like many woodworkers I learned some basics from my father. I even had a motorized toy woodworking multi-tool- a kind of miniature Shopsmith when I was about 10. It was only good on very soft woods like balsa and pine, because they had to make it so safe it was barely functional, but I managed to make a few simple

toys with it. My father's shop was more metalworking than woodworking, and for many years his printing business occupied the garage and basement, so not much sawdust could be made. As a teenager I worked in a kitchen cabinet factory and a church furniture factory, so I learned all about heavy industrial equipment-bigger than typical high school shop equipment. For most of my teenage years my woodworking was confined to building theater sets. In college I took a fine woodworking course, learning basic hand tool use and constructing simple furniture.

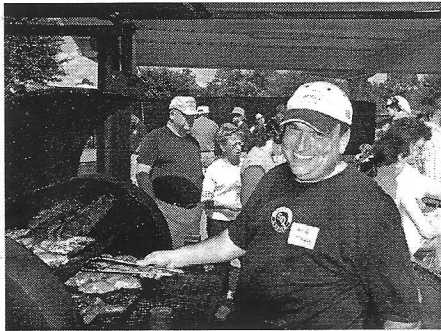
As a newlywed just starting out, I decided to build my own furniture instead of buying. So I purchased a Shopsmith and set up shop, first in the apartment bedroom, sleeping in the living room, and later in the second bedroom of a condo. The limitations of these shops are obvious. I put a tarp down to reduce sawdust in the carpet, and kept the door closed, but sawdust infiltrated the rest of the abode. Noise was a problem, although the neighbors never complained to me. I made simple compact work benches that could be rolled into a closet. I stood the Shopsmith up on end without legs so everything would fit. I managed to build some basic pieces, but eventually bought a house with a proper garage to enable more convenient woodworking to be done. The house was built new, so I had extra circuits, including 220v put in. Eventually the attached two car garage was insulated and air conditioned.

During the twelve years at that location, the shop evolved. The Shopsmith was sold to permit purchase of a cabinet table saw. The rolling tool cabinets from the apartment days were pressed into service with more permanent but cheap particle board work benches. I

... continued on page 3

Get your tickets for the Annual WWCH Picnic on October 15.

W'd like a full plate of tangy barbeque, with potato salad, beans, creamy cole slaw, bread, a drink, and two desserts, please. Sauce on the side." That's my dream as we approach the Annual WWCH Picnic. (Does anyone know how many annual picnics there have been? Let the editor or a board member know, if you know.) Last year's event was one of the best ever and plans are under way to make this year's event even better. There's even a committee in charge of the weather. They tell me the weather is dependent upon the number of tickets sold—more tickets = better weather—or so we hope. The Bayland Community Pavilion will be our venue once again (6400 Bissonnet). There will be *fun, games, prizes, tool auction, raffle & swap meet, and, this year, a dessert contest.*



Let Dottie

Forbes know if you can contribute a dessert this year. We need plenty. After all, some of us will be looking for two. We'll kick things off about 11:00 and try to finish up about 3:00. The cost will be \$9.00 per person and \$16.00 if you buy two tickets for a couple. This is our big party of the year folks so plan to attend.

Bill White

Club Shirts now available

Our club was founded in 1983 when a group of "ShopSmith" users decided to get together. I've been lucky enough to be a member for over ten years. When I joined the member shirt was a bright yellow, with a yellow and brown hat. Some of them are still being used. In '99 or 2000 the embroidered shirts with a hand plane or a circular saw blade were ordered from a League City business. In 2002 efforts to find this business failed and some twill shirts with the circular saw blade pattern were ordered from a Montgomery, Texas shop. Since then the club ordered a large quantity of hats and some knit shirts using the current logo. (A hand plane above a red, white and blue bar.) The club still has a small quantity of these shirts in medium size. These shirts are golf style with a pocket that are cut a little large. They will continue to be available until gone

at the club meeting at \$25.00. I own two of these shirts and they fit fine and look good. Previously to obtain the best price, we purchased tons of hats and they are still available at \$10.00 each. They were given to new members who joined at the annual woodworkers show. Your board's opinion was that due to storage and other problems it would be best if we were not in the clothing business.

I contacted several embroidery companies to have them come to the meeting and take orders for shirts. None would. The Montgomery Company has sold their machine. To test the market I ordered and paid for five shirts. These are twill shirts, in khaki with the current logo. I can order more (\$28.00 each) Khaki short sleeve in all sizes. Long sleeve are more, as are other colors. I didn't want to be in the shirt business any more than the club. But...

Here is why I think it is important to wear the club colors: They are a great advertising tool. After the Club meeting when you go to Rockler's, Woodcraft or the Cutting Edge it identifies you as a WWCH woodworker. This opens the door to other wood-workers who don't know about us and shows the businesses that we are their customers. So, if you'd like to be on the cutting edge of woodworking fashion order a Club shirt at our next meeting. And if you're into ensembles please couple the shirt with your very own WWCH hat (ten bucks).

Club Shirts

Khaki- Short Sleeve; Twill with logo
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Ken Kooser

September Program by Lon Kelley

How much do you trust your fabrication and assembly skills? Enough to soar thousands of feet above the earth in a product of your own making? WWCH member Lon Kelley and his wife do. At our September meeting Lon will describe he and his wife's three-year team effort to build aircraft sub-assemblies in their garage and on their patio, trailer them to an airport, assemble them, and then ground and flight-test the completed aircraft. No it's not a wooden plane, but Shades of Wilbur and Orville. I'm sure that the Kelley's story will have interest and lessons for us all.

Dennis Serig

built a maple joiners work bench and the list of stationary power tools grew longer. Along that line I started doing work for clients to subsidize my woodworking habit, and the shop changed to fit the needs of a small custom cabinet business. The table saw was positioned so that sheet goods and long boards were fed in through an open garage door. A multi-purpose rolling tool cart/outfeed table sat in front of the saw, which is where most of the assembly took place. The disadvantage is that you can't assemble and cut at the same time, but I managed around that problem. The largest object to be built in the shop was my daughter's playhouse. It is an 8' by 8' floorplan, twelve feet tall to the top of the turret roof. The vertical walls were built first, then removed while the roof was build on the same base. It was like building an enormous cabinet that comes apart like a puzzle. With all the walls and roof sections it was almost impossible to maneuver, but I managed somehow.

The next shop was in a rental house. The garage was even smaller than the former, with a washer and dryer to make matters worse. We intended to stay only two years until a new house could be built. The birth of my son helped stretch it to six. This "temporary" shop was never as comfortable as the other, and I declined to make more than rudimentary improvements other than upgrading machinery. It was not air conditioned, which was a huge drawback in Houston. All the old work benches were pressed into service again, and overall it was just a more cramped version of the former.

Finally, the new house was built in 2000. I tackled constructing all the cabinets and trim in the house. The attached four car garage was designed to be a shop from day one. A vehicle has occupied a stall only once or twice. The concrete floor was floated smooth to facilitate rolling equipment, the walls have four large windows to let in natural light, and the ceiling is over ten feet high. The oversize 9x8 garage doors have openers to facilitate moving material. The nearly 1000 square feet is well lit, air conditioned, and has six 220 volt and numerous 110v circuits. Other than a lawn tractor and gardening tools, the space is exclusively dedicated to woodwork. The stationary power tools were joined by a number of my father's metal working tools-some I don't even know how to use, including a metal lathe and milling machine.

I had grand plans to improve the workbenches, but life intervened. I got divorced in 2002, and offered my ex anything/everything inside the house if I could keep

the tools, which worked to everyone's benefit. I figured I could always replace the furniture with new productions. So I lived in a very empty house with a nice shop for a while. I worked on client projects to help make ends meet. I cranked out some very simple pieces to provide some basic furniture. Parts of the house remained unfinished, including the drawers in the kitchen. In 2003 I remarried, and the projects have resumed. Glenda and I try to finish one or two rooms a year. To my astonishment and delight, she insisted that the shop be properly finished this year (an amazing priority, considering the kitchen drawers still aren't done). So old work benches and tool drawers dating back 25 years are finally being replaced with purpose built cabinetry. I gave away my old out feed table when I moved, and had been using a temporary one knocked together from scrap during the house construction. Nearly five years later it was over due for replacement.

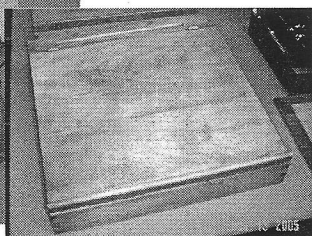
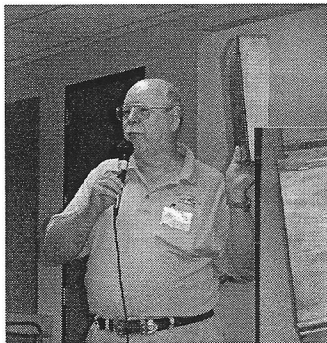
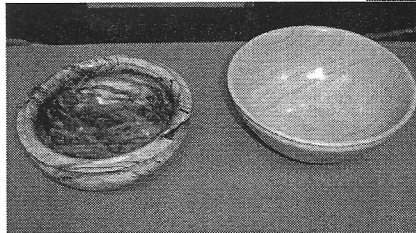
The new cabinetry is made primarily out of mdf, with hard wood trim, which helps keep the cost down. There are over 35 lineal feet of upper cabinets, and about 20 lineal feet of lower cabinets, not including the cabinets on wheels. The traditional cabinet style includes raised panels and inset doors and drawers- over 31 at last count. The painted cabinets are intended to look like a high end kitchen, which is partly a marketing strategy, since my clients often visit to see their work in progress. Most equipment and some of the benches are on locking casters. A few features are absolutely wonderful, including a chop saw station with accurate left and right adjustable stops. This makes it easy to cut identical parts to consistent length. Significant improvements in dust collection and control have been implemented, although there is still room for improvement.

This shop is closer to my ideal, but I have many unrealized plans. One of the most ambitious is to raise the floor so dust collection, power and compressed air can be routed with out tripping over hoses and cords. But I am much happier and more productive in this shop than ever before. And that is a lot of what woodworking is about.

Note: See Steve's shop on the Shop Crawl.

August projects

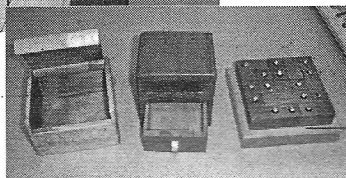
Barbara Gaynor explained how she turned spalted maple and ash into bowls. She reminded us of the importance of wearing a respirator because of the dust generated by the wood and the glue used in building up the blocks.



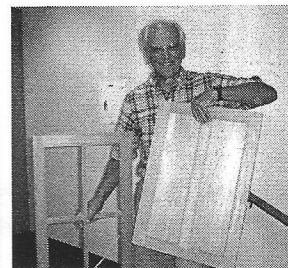
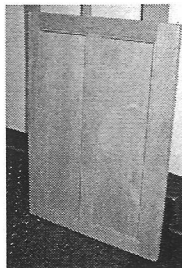
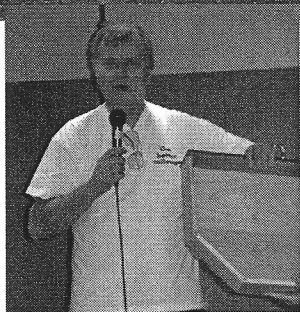
Ken Kooser holds a laptop that his splinter group crafted as a suggested toy project that would be given to older children.



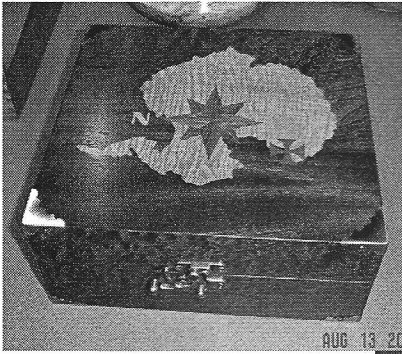
Robert Sandlin holds up a little box that he crafted. I still have not solved the puzzle.



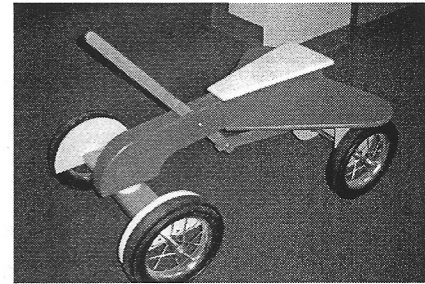
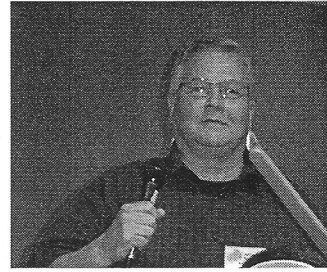
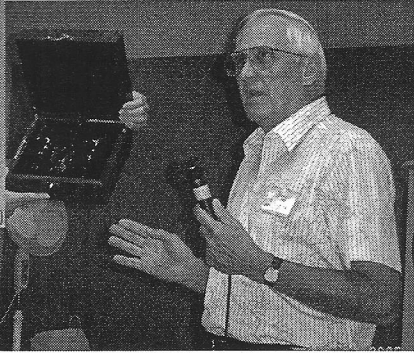
This base to a Chippendale corner hutch was crafted by **Jack Hutchinson** of mostly Honduras mahogany and some poplar. Jack explained his technique for creating to emulate an antique museum piece. The molding is hand carved and the feet are Philadelphia Style - gee, I wonder what New York style would look like?



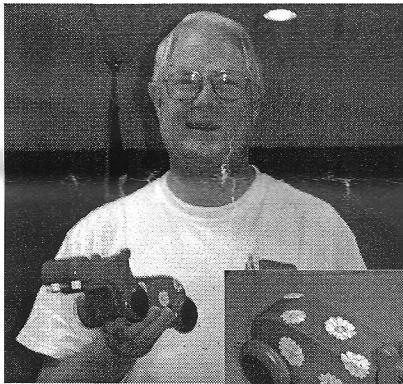
These pieces are in-work corner cupboard project of **Lon Kelley**. It is patterned after a cupboard seen in a 1750 house in Pennsylvania.



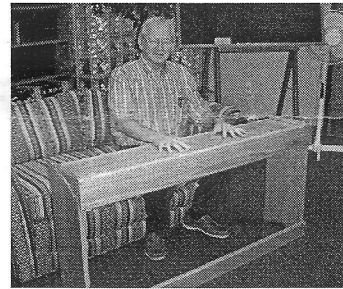
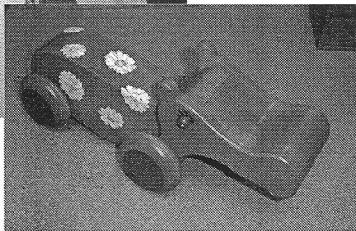
Rudy Lippert proudly talked about his ceremonial inlay box that he crafted. He estimates that 80% of the information he needed came from videos in the club library. He discovered that Kool-aid makes a great permanent dye that can be used on wood. Rudy also shared that auto spray paint, readily available, in many colors and has been formulated to work well with wood.



An Irish mail cart was painted in bold colors by **Herbert Mann**. The axle and lever are maple, the flat parts are Baltic birch.



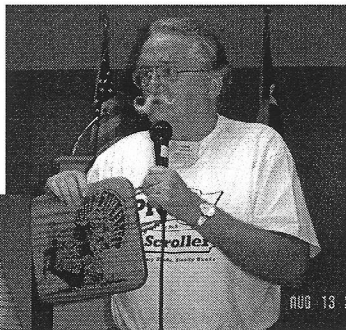
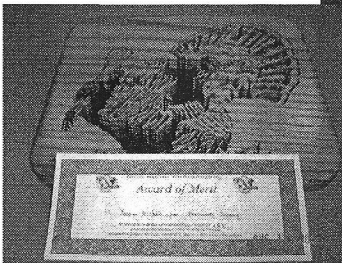
Hank Merry made this pull toy for his grandchildren. As the toy is pulled the hippo mouth clatters.



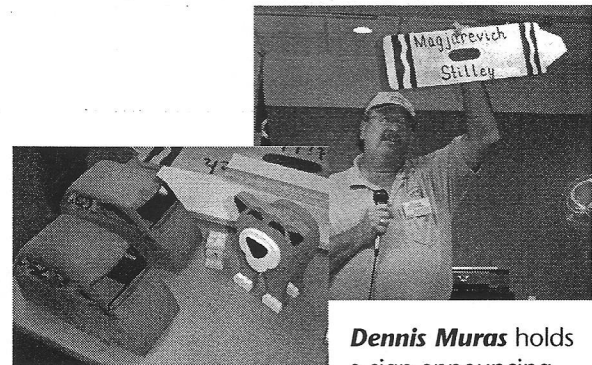
Gary Rowen demonstrates the technique of an air piano on his stand from an electric piano. He didn't want to spend \$110 on an MDF imported version (plus S & H) so he spent \$80.00 at

Home Depot for red oak. It is custom fit to Gary's size and was constructed with simple butt joinery then glued and screwed. Edges were routed to soften them and the back top edge was beveled to minimize damage if the knee is banged.

Norm Nichols and two other club members went to Branson, MO to participate in a woodworking competition of over 200 entries. All



three returned with an Award of Merit.



Dennis Muras holds a sign announcing the location of a school teacher's classroom. Dennis also showed club members other nifty little craft items in addition to some jigs he made.



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Tool Time: New Tools

At 7.0 amps and only 6.2 lbs., **Makita's new Pit Bull rotary hammer** is not only powerful but extremely lightweight. It synchronizes its two impacts (RPMs and blows per minute) so impacts are not overlapped - improving drilling efficiency 2X. A three mode switch allows for hammering, hammering with rotation and just rotation, and the adjustable chuck allows for 40 different chuck positions. A built-in torque limiter ensures stable drilling and a SDS chuck moves with a touch for easy bit switching. The Makita HR2455 Pit Bull hammer retails for about \$239.00.



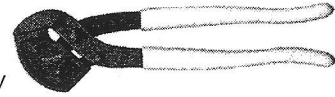
Makita's new cordless 12-volt impact driver features a rare earth-magnet motor, which increases the tool's power by 20% without affecting the size of the tool, and all ball-bearing construction and carbon brushes for durability. The impact driver delivers 887in./lbs. of torque, which is roughly 3X the torque delivered by standard 12-volt drill/drivers. The handle and grip are ergonomically formed for increased comfort and the unit is only 6-5/8" long, allowing for greater flexibility and maneuverability in tight spaces. The impact driver



comes with a 1/4" hex shank and comes with a charger, battery and case. The Makita 6916WE 12-volt impact driver retails for \$229.00

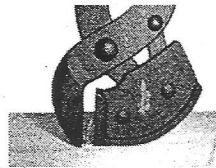
The Extractor Extracting Pliers

We were very impressed with this sturdy and effective new tool.



It's great at cleanly removing nails, staples, tacks, fasteners (even rusty damaged ones), pneumatic fasteners, and smooth or headless pins or nails. It's perfect for any remodeling, demolition, and electrical professional or do-it-yourself-er.

It has parallel jaws with serrated teeth that evenly distribute force on the entire exposed length of the fastener, which prevents bending and shearing. It has a curved heel which allows the tool to rock back and pull out the fastener with minimal damage to the surface. The black phosphate-coated handles resist corrosion and long handles provide excellent leverage...



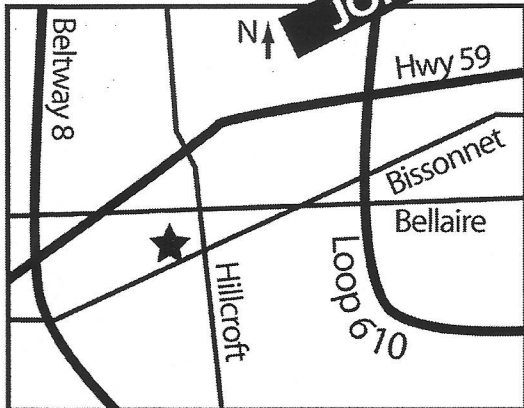
We found it very easy to use...the jaws are auto-locking and will even grip a fastener on a vertical surface once the handles are released.

The extractor is now available for \$22.50.

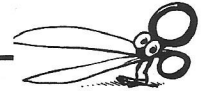
WWCH Monthly Meeting

Second Saturday of every month
We open the doors at 8:30am, program starts at 9:00 and winds up by 11:30am.

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet
Houston, TX 77074



Woodworkers Club of Houston Membership Application



A WWCH Membership is a chance to learn about woodworking, visit with other woodworkers and see some fabulous projects. Your membership includes a monthly newsletter, access to our video and book library, invitation to field trips and occasionally we collectively buy tools at discounted prices. Considering the cost it's a genuine bargain. So, cut out this application, include a check for \$24.00 yearly membership and mail it to the address below. And join us once a month for a good time.

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\$24⁰⁰ A bargain!

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Woodworkers Club of Houston

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



Monthly Meeting:
September 10

Program: Lon Kelley on
fabrication and assembly

Next Meeting:
October 8

~~Gary Power~~
~~5100 Cranbourne Dr~~
~~Houston, TX 77062~~

"You will get more done in a shop to which you have to commute."

Jim Tolpin, Woodworking Wit & Wisdom

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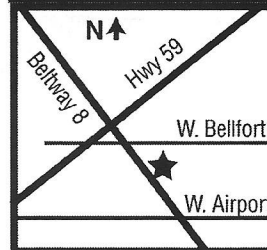
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