

# Woodworkers Club *of Houston*

Volume 31 Issue 11

November 2015

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The annual picnic was a huge success. The barbeque was great, there were numerous good raffle prizes, and of course the afternoon spent with fellow woodworkers and their spouses was wonderful. The only possible improvement would be more members and spouses with families in attendance so we could get to know each other better and enjoy the fall afternoon outdoors together. Special thanks go to Denis Muras for handling the raffles, Andy Anderson for arranging catering, David Janowitz for ticket sales and accounting, Larry and Patti Page for the beverages, and all the dessert donors. Thank you all.

Thanks to Bill Harris for coordinating the second shop crawl of the year, and thanks to Bob Wink and Denis Muras for inviting us into their woodworking worlds. As you might expect, Bob's shop is loaded with all sorts of interesting and beautiful things he has made and is well organized for the type of work he does. If you would like to see more of his work, visit the Holland St. Gallery on the Belleville square. In addition to seeing the woodshop, Denis and Sheryl kindly invited us into their home to see all the beautiful and functional woodwork Denis has done there: a totally remodeled kitchen, book cases, and Sheryl's fantastic custom sewing room. Of course, both these shops had all of us woodworkers drooling over the setups, equipment, and space to work. This well-attended shop crawl was topped off by groups of us meeting at either Tony's in Sealy or Newman's Bakery in Belleville for lunch and discussion. Photos of the shopcrawl are on page 4.

At the October meeting, Gary Rowen received the rare Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of service to WWCH as Secretary (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007), Board member (2005), Webmaster (forever), Publications Director (2011-2014), and photographer. Thank you Gary. And thanks to David Garcia for making the Lifetime Achievement Award plaque.

It's that time of year to consider volunteering to help your WWCH operate for another year. Nominations for officers and board members are scheduled to be announced at the November meeting with elections in December.

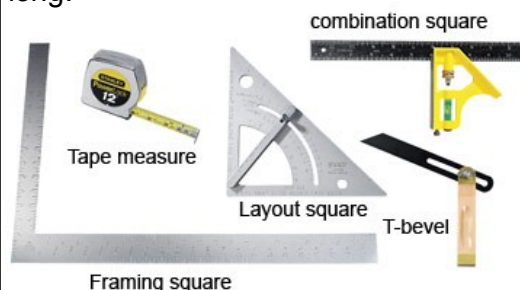
Please consider volunteering and contact Roslyn Hager, Nominating Committee Chair, at the next meeting, at [rghager@texaschildrens.org](mailto:rghager@texaschildrens.org) or (713) 721-1613. Thank you.

Chuck Meeder, President

## November Meeting

The program for November will be on measurement and layout techniques, featuring specific tools and techniques that our members use in woodworking. **I invite you to bring a special layout tool or device you use and demonstrate how you use that tool in measuring and laying out your projects.**

This tool or device could be a jig that you use with a specific piece of equipment, your normal layout tools, or tools that have been modified to accommodate a higher degree of accuracy in your woodworking. Each presentation should be about four to five minutes long.



# Splinter Groups

**The CNC Router Splinter Group** will meet at Patrick's place on Thursday, November 19th, at 7:00pm. The address is 20734 Lake Circle North, Katy, TX. For more information, contact Mike Turner 281-633-1807. We will continue doing CNC inlay and joinery.

**Hand Tool Splinter Group:** Per group member requests, the meetings will be moved to Sunday evenings. Our November meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 15th, at 7:00 PM. Please watch your email for any changes or cancellations. See you at 7pm—9pm at Mark Bolinger's garage in Sugar Land near Hwy 6 and 90A. Email Mark for directions or details at [marksmithb@windstream.net](mailto:marksmithb@windstream.net).

**The Scroll Saw Splinter Group:** The next Scrollsaw Splinter group meeting will be in January 2016 at Woodcraft South. The tentative program will be a Question and Answer session. Denis and Norm will be fielding question related to scrollsawing. If we do not know the answer, one of the other members may be working with a specific technique. We would like for it to be a knowledge sharing session. See you in January! Group contacts: Norm at [scrollsaw@comcast.net](mailto:scrollsaw@comcast.net) or Denis at [denis\\_muras@yahoo.com](mailto:denis_muras@yahoo.com).

**The Toy Splinter Group** has completed the toy making for 2015. We will devote the rest of this year to the distribution of the toys. Since we have not "finalized" our efforts (some members have made toys at their shops and are going to bring them to include in the distribution), we don't have a final count. We will be somewhere above 2,000 toys and it could exceed 3,000 when all is counted. Overall, another successful year, and we want to express true appreciation to all members (and some non-members who came with members) for their efforts.

As we have previously stated, if you know of an organization that might be interested in receiving and distributing toys, please let someone in the Splinter group know about them. Andy Anderson is our toy coordinator, but you can contact any member with suggestions. We also might need help in getting the toys to the receiving organizations, and we will be sending e-mail blasts as needed. While we have

finished the primary work, preparations for next year are already underway with the acquisition of wood and new patterns. Remember, your club is ensuring a great holiday season for thousands of children, something we can all be proud of!

**The Sawmill Splinter Group** is for those who are cutting and milling their own lumber or are interested in doing so. We discuss sawmills and the projects possible with the lumber. Anyone with logs to mill or an interest in the sawmill can contact Bill Lindsey at [bill\\_lindsey@comcast.net](mailto:bill_lindsey@comcast.net).

## WWCH Calendar

November 14..... Monthly Meeting  
November 15.....Hand Tool Splinter Group  
November 19.....CNC Router Splinter Group  
December 12..... Monthly Meeting

## WWCH Collecting Toys

WWCH is collecting **STUFFED ANIMALS** to distribute to the police. They carry these stuffed animals in their squad cars to give to children when they answer domestic disturbance calls. These soft and cuddly toys are so helpful to a traumatized and tearful child when their world is turned upside down.

If you have access to stuffed animals that could comfort a child, bring them to a meeting and we'll take it from there.



## WWCH Video Library

Did you know that WWCH owns an extensive wood-working DVD collection? All of our DVDs can be checked out by WWCH members. You can see the list of our DVD library on the WWCH website here: <http://wwch.org/Library/Videos.htm>.

If you would like to check one out, please email the video librarian Lisa Sessions at [lases-sions@earthlink.net](mailto:lases-sions@earthlink.net). Requested DVDs will be brought to the next WWCH meeting.

## Christmas Ornament Contest Results



I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who submitted ornaments for the planned contest. While there were not enough woodworkers to justify the program that had been planned, I think it was obvious from the display at our October meeting that the ornaments that were submitted reflected positively on the skills of our club members. I am afraid that with the picnic activities the results of our "Members Choice" voting were not clear to all present. I'm pleased to announce that Lon Kelly's BOX ornament was the clear favorite. Congratulations Lon; your "coffee dues" for the next year are taken care of. I also would like to make the club aware that most of the ornaments were donated to the club's table at the November craft sale. Again, thanks to all who participated. We will try and determine the level of interest for next year.

*Submitted by Tim Shaunty*

## WWCH Toy Making Magazine Article

The following article is included in the current issue of *Scrollsaw Woodworking and Crafts*.

### Big Hearts in Texas

It has often been said that everything is bigger in Texas. For one group of woodworkers, that might actually be true. For the past several years, 25 to 30 members of the Woodworkers Club of Houston have been crafting wooden toys to donate to various charities both during the holidays and throughout the year. These big-hearted woodworkers will donate more than 4,000 toys this year alone. Working individually and collectively to craft every type of wooden toy imaginable, the group coordinates their efforts at bi-monthly workshops. They construct the toys from soft pine boards donated by local contractors. "Most toys are finished with a mixture of bees-wax and mineral oil," said club member Norm Nichols. "But some organizations have requested that the toys remain unfinished so the children can finish or paint them themselves, to make it their own creation."



Above: Woodworkers in Houston will donate more than 4,000 wooden toys this year.

Left: Club members Norm Nichols, Jerry Harmson, and Denis Muras sand the toys.

Recipient organizations include the Orthopedic Shriners Hospital in Houston, Shriners Burn Hospital in Galveston, several women's shelters, and local churches. The group also donates toys to the Houston police department's Blue Santa program, which allows officers to carry toys in their cruisers to give to children in times of crisis. "Reactions from our recipient organizations have been overwhelming," said Norm. "The children are overjoyed to receive handmade toys, so we will continue to make them as long as we have the wood and willing hearts and helping hands."

Learn more about the Woodworkers Club of Houston at [www.wwch.org](http://www.wwch.org)

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## Fall Shop Crawl Pictures



Pictures from the Fall Shop crawl of Denis Muras' and Bob Winks' shops. Looks like a fun and educational event!

*Photos submitted by Gary Rowan*

## Picnic Raffle Donations

WWCH would like to acknowledge the following companies for donating raffle items for the picnic. Thank you for your generosity!

- ◇ **Woodline, Inc:** 3 Router Bit Sets
- ◇ **Darex, LLC:** WorkSharp 300 with Accessories
- ◇ **Kreg Tools:** K5 Pocket Hole Jig, K5 Pocket Hole Jig, 2 Surface Clamps, 4 Boxes of Kreg Screws
- ◇ **Rockler Woodworking:** Wall mounted Dust Collector, various store items along with \$20 Gift Cards
- ◇ **Woodcraft:** Blade Runner X2 with accessories, 3 Forstner and Brad Point bit sets, Clamping Set
- ◇ **Lee Valley Tools LTD:** 3 \$50 Gift Cards, Catalogs for the Membership
- ◇ **Titebond / Franklin International:** 3 Cases of Titebond Glue, Type I, Type II and Type III

We would also like to thank the numerous WWCH members who donated items and desserts. Thank you for your contributions and for helping to make the picnic a successful and fun event!



# WWCH 2015 Picnic



Members line up for some delicious BBQ.



The raffle master selling tickets.



Chuck Graham wins a Blade Runner X2.



Chuck Lickwar wins a WorkSharp 300.



Lisa Sessions wins a Kreg K5 Jig.



Denis Muras wins a wall mounted dust collector.

The WWCH picnic was a great event. This was my first time to attend, and I had a lot of fun and even won a great raffle prize! We all enjoyed delicious BBQ and desserts, great prizes, and the fun company of fellow woodworkers and their families. The weather cooperated and was perfect—not too hot or cold and nice and sunny. Well over 100 raffle prizes were awarded during the picnic, including the larger items shown in these pictures.

The picnic is held every year after the October meeting, so **mark your calendars now for next year: October 8, 2016.**

*Submitted by Lisa Sessions*



## Gary Rowen Awarded Lifetime Achievement Award



Gary Rowen was awarded the WWCH Lifetime Achievement Award during the October meeting. During Gary's many years of service to WWCH, he has served as secretary, board member, webmaster, publications director, and photographer. Gary was presented with a beautiful plaque made by David Garcia.



Bob Wink also presented a Golden Shoes Award to Gary. Thank you, Gary, for your years of service to WWCH!

## Member's Project in Scroll Saw Magazine

WWCH member Niklas Oberfeld's Double Slider Pillbox project is presented in the current issue of Scroll Saw Woodworking and Craft's magazine *Gizmos and Gadgets 2015*. Way to go, Niklas!



## WWCH Toys Enrich Lives

Samantha Hubbard from the Galveston Shriners Hospital for Children stopped by the October meeting to thank WWCH for the toys that WWCH donates to the hospital every year. This hospital specializes in treating burns in children from newborns to age 21.

Samantha explained how the toys are used and how they provide therapy for the children. The toys are kept in a room which is dedicated to play only. Doctors and nurses aren't allowed in this room so that kids are free to play and have fun without worrying about their treatments or medications.

The wooden toys that WWCH donates provide therapy for the kids while they decorate and play with the toys. Playing and painting the toys allows the children to use and regain their motor skills in a fun way. Samantha calls it "sneaky therapy."

Samantha enthused about how much the kids love the toys. When a new box of toys was delivered last month, two young boys were so excited they started pulling out toys right away. Samantha had to convince them to wait until play time. The next day, they were the first at the door for play time so they could get the dinosaur and the hippopotamus they had spotted in the box the day before.

Here are some of the toys decorated by the children at Shriners Hospital. The truck says, "Love to the Rescue."



## New Members

**Welcome to WWCH!**

Tom Blanco  
Steve Brackney

Pick up your Membership Directory, and sign in at each meeting so you will be counted.

**Happy to have you with us!**

# Favorite Tools & Show and Tell

Show and Tell write-up and photos submitted by Gary Rowen

## PRESENTERS

- Steve Wavro** ..... Baby Tiger
- Bob Wink** ..... Uncle Sam
- Chuck Meeder** ..... Noah's Ark
- Norm Nichols** ..... Cross & Nativity Scene
- Charles Volek** ..... Toy Helicopters
- Lon Kelley** ..... Segmented Bowls
- David Janowitz** ..... Ornaments & Bottle Stoppers
- Lynn Cummings** ..... Table
- Lon Kelley** ..... Die Grinder



This Noah's ark of cherry and poplar was crafted by **Chuck Meeder** and comes apart like a puzzle. Chuck finished the ark with Watco Danish oil, natural. Animals for the ark will be crafted by Bill Byrne. Chuck is donating this ark for the WWCH craft sale coming up in November.



A friend of **Steve Wavro's** daughter will be the proud recipient of this baby tiger. She played golf for the Missouri Tigers for four years and is now an assistant coach. She is also pregnant, so Steve felt a baby tiger would get the baby off on the right foot. Steve confessed that he had to use dye and stain to get the black and orange pieces to look right although he was able to use ebony for the eyes.



This beautiful cross of red oak, mahogany base and tulip trim was crafted by **Norm Nichols**. The white lamb is white pickled wood he acquired from Steve Wavro.

Norm also presented a Nativity scene. Norm made the figures with intarsia work, but he found it was a headache trying to get everything to come out right.



**Bob Wink** was so inspired by Steve Wavro's intarsia work but didn't have the variety of colorful wood that Steve had so Bob turned to previously consumed beverage cans to create his intarsia Uncle Sam.



However, using Bob's unique method he was able to avoid using stain or dye to achieve the color changes that he wanted – a method inspired by Steve.

**Charles Volek** said that whenever his is on vacation, he looks for toys. The helicopters that he crafted of walnut and maple were inspired by some that he saw on a recent trip. Charles made one dozen, and he will donate two for the WWCH craft show sale and the rest for WWCH's toy program.





## Show and Tell



**Lon Kelley** showed a couple of bowls, one from a laminated beam and another from chip board. He made segments, glued them together, and turned them on a lathe. He finished with spray polyurethane. Lon commented that the chips come off pretty hot so he advised wearing gloves.



This solid cherry table was crafted by **Lynn Cummings** for a client. Lynn explained how he used biscuits for the leg joints and for the slats for the table top. Lynn used a kind of a gel type finish that must be wiped on and off fast lest you have a lumpy surface.

Lynn noted that he had the top sanded at Houston Hardwoods. They charge \$25 for 15 minutes of sanding and were able to sand the top to 220 grit in 15 minutes.



**David Janowitz** showed club members some Christmas ornaments mostly of Osage orange and some wine bottle stoppers. The ribbons and bells came from Michael's. David finished by applying some water borne polyurethane.



## December Program

The program for the December meeting will be the Norm and Denis Show. Norm and Denis will host a Question and Answer session on Scrollsawing. They will be doing demonstrations as well but will mainly focus on answering your burning questions about scrollsawing.

With access to the internet during the meeting, they should be able to lookup information such as blade types, saw types, cutting styles, patterns, etcetera. So, please come up with questions for Norm and Denis and see if they can be stumped!

## Favorite Tools

**Lon Kelley** showed off his die grinder, a tool that he uses a lot in his woodworking.



## Lie Neilson Hand Tool Event

Lie Neilson will host its fall hand tool event on December 4th and 5th at Homestead Heritage in Waco, Texas. Details for the event are here:

<http://tinyurl.com/handtoolevent>.





Visit the Houston locations at:

60 FM 1960

Houston, TX 77090

281-880-0045

&

11707 W. Sam Houston Pkwy S.

Houston, TX 77031

281-988-9449

## WWCH General Information

### WWCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

President	Chuck Meeder
Vice President	Mike Turner
Secretary	Steve Wavro
Treasurer	David Janowitz
Publications Director	Vacant

#### DIRECTORS

Bill Harris, Chuck Lickwar, Joe Cook,  
Lynn Cummings

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CLUB SERVICE PROVIDERS

Book Library	John Gay
Donuts	Roslyn Hager
Club Logo Items	Norm Nichols
Membership Book	Patti Page
Members/Name Tags	Roslyn Hager
Newsletter	Lisa Sessions
Raffle	Lynn Cummings
Refreshments	Chuck Horton
Technology	Denis Muras
Video Library	Lisa Sessions
Web Master	Gary Rowen

### NEXT MEETING

**November 14, 2015**

9:00AM TO 11:30AM

BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 6400 Bissonnet

**Measurement and Layout Techniques**

*Guests are always welcome at WWCH meetings!*

**Newsletter Publication:** Do you have an announcement or item for the newsletter? Send it to Lisa Sessions, WWCH Newsletter Editor, at [lasessions@earthlink.net](mailto:lasessions@earthlink.net).

***We're on the web!***

[www.wwch.org](http://www.wwch.org)

**Like us on Facebook!**  
**Woodworkers Club of Houston**

**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 \$36 per year, or about the price of one good clamp!*