



KNOT KNEWS



Monthly Club Newsletter

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Volume 7, Issue 4, January 2002

January 15th Meeting Open House at Puckett Tools and Fasteners 410 First Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids - 5:00 p.m.

Puckett TOOLS AND FASTENERS

Darrell Puckett of *Puckett Tools and Fasteners* has invited members of the Collins Woodworkers Guild to an open house at their Cedar Rapids store on Tuesday, January 15th. The meeting will begin at 5:00 - however, we'll wait till 5:15 or so before we start.

Darrell will give us a tour of his store, outline the brand names they represent and the products they stock. He has arranged for his local Bessey Clamp distributor to give us a presentation on the use and care of wood clamps. Darrell has arranged for a special in-store Bessey Clamp discount for that evening. Bring your checkbooks!

In addition to the above presentations, fellow member, Emil Krepcik will demonstrate his new *Jet JBM-5* bench-top mortiser. He will bring some lumber and drill a bunch of square holes for us.

To complete the evening, Darrell and his staff will provide refreshments. See you there!



Visit www.pucketttools.com

December Meeting

The topic of the December meeting was a demonstration of the club's mat cutting machine by Kelley Kirtz. She outlined the basics of mat cutting, the components of our machine, and how to operate it noting that this was her first experience using one of these cutters. Kelley used a page of commemorative postage stamps as a demo example because of its non-standard size ... which is one of the many reasons to cut your own mats. Selecting a couple of mat stock colors that complemented the stamps, she demonstrated cutting a double mat showing the best methods of operating the cutting tools and how to set the guide bar. The example looked as good as, if not better than, one that you would pay much more for in the store. Thanks Kelley, we enjoyed the presentation very much.

Eric Bong brought a wood project that he had a little difficulty with to share with the club. He made a laminated bookend set from Padauk and Maple. He finished it with polyurethane and found that it just wouldn't cure - after several days. He mechanically stripped the poly and

tried lacquer but it released the dye from the darker wood which was then absorbed by the lighter wood. This orange mess wasn't what Eric was looking for so he stripped it again. He then called Wayne Hanson who noted that most exotic hardwoods that have extensive oils, will modify the chemical reaction required for some finishes to cure. The solvent in the lacquer simply dissolved the oil and spread the dye. He suggested using shellac to seal the wood first then apply your favorite finish after it is dry. Wayne also mentioned reading the book *Understanding Wood Finishing* by Bob Flexner. (CWG library item number 141)

Wayne Hanson brought a craftsman-style lamp he had recently completed. He constructed it from walnut using a plan in an issue of *Woodsmith*. This writer thought it looked really good ... of course I do like this particular style of furniture. It reminds me of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs.

Later in the meeting Duane Weber won the sixteen-foot tape door prize and Kelley Kirtz won the twelve-inch centering rule.

Book Review

By: Tim Rundal I

Being in the woodcarving business and teaching I read lots of books trying to find the ones that would be beneficial to my students and customers. I think I have read about every one on the market. Some are very good and some aren't.

Recently a new book was published that I think would be listed in the "very good" column. The new book is written by well known woodcarver and instructor Ivan Whillock called *Carving Eyes, Features and Expressions*.

Ivan takes you through eyes, noses, the mouth and chin, and ears. He shows the contours and features in a way that we all can understand. In Ivan's unique way he takes you step by step through a very simple method of carving each feature. By the time you work your way through the book you should have a finished head carved of your own.

As usual in Ivan's books he has lots of drawings and reference photos to help visualize each feature. This isn't a long book, only 48 pages, or an expensive one, retailing at only \$15.95. It's easy to follow and comes highly recommended by this instructor. A must have for your library.

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A Year Ago This Month

Larry Tjaden presented an overview of the club's web site. He demonstrated how the library check out system works and how to add to the Links pages. Coffee and doughnuts were served.

Hanson Poll

Next time you're visiting the club's web page take a minute and vote your opinion on the Hanson Poll. Wayne is gathering input for future club meetings and the interests of our club members. The last couple of polls about finishes is working up to a meeting topic on learning more on the subject. In the past we have found that our members want to know more about preparing for and applying various kinds of finishes. Back in November 1998 we had Des Moines Woodworkers Association member, Dick Meuler give us a presentation on finishing. He has just returned from a professional seminar by Bob Flexner and was full of excellent information to share. The meeting was well attended by over fifty members and guests.

Web Site Usage

By: Larry Tjaden

Our club website server has been pretty busy the last few months. The "hit" counter is pegged-out at over 326,257 visits since last January the first. I think we have entertained visitors from every country on earth so far. Joining the Woodworkers Guild we have the: Collins Amateur Radio Club, Rockwell Craft Club, Collins Model Aviators, Rock-

well Collins Retired Volunteers, Inventory Disposal Store, and the eMuseum all contributing to the count.

The last few months I have been adding historical content to the eMuseum pages. Collins historian and keeper of the treasury, Rod Blocksome has been sharing material for the site. I recently added an impressive collection of Art Collins' QSL cards and some drawings of one of his first transmitters. We also have some mint-condition copies of the first issues of *Collins Signal* to read.

Take a look some time.

Forrest Saw Blade Group Purchase

CWG member, Dave Wetzel is thinking of organizing another group purchase of Forrest brand saw blades. Several years ago (March 1998) we contacted the local distributor, Ron Collier and arranged for an excellent price discount. If memory serves ... we rounded up over a thousand dollars worth of blades and accessories.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these very high quality Miter, Chop, Table, and Radial saw blades, let Dave know.

Visit some of the other Rockwell Collins, Inc. club web sites at:

Collins Clubs.Com

Collins Amateur Radio Club

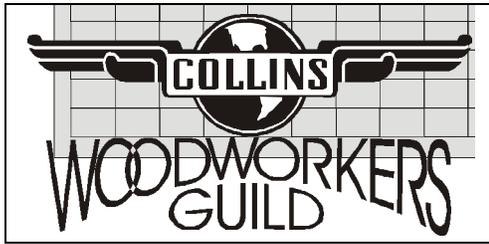
Rockwell Craft Club

Collins Model Aviators

Rockwell Collins Retired Volunteers

Rockwell Collins Company History eMuseum

Rockwell Collins Inventory Disposal Store



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Membership in the Collins Woodworkers Guild is open to all
Rockwell Collins, Inc. employees, spouses,
retirees, and contract employees.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings!
Yearly dues, renewed in September, are \$10.

Keep in touch! Don't miss a copy of the newsletter.

Send an e-mail to our membership person Larry Lacy at
cwg-membership@collinsclubs.com and give him your new address.

Invitation to all members

Got an idea for a meeting topic? Want to contribute to the club?

Attend one of our monthly planning committee meetings.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Main Plant Cafeteria at five o'clock. This year's lineup is Larry Tjaden, Dave Houvinen, Larry Lacy, Lee Johnson, Wayne Hanson and Emil Krepcik.

We greatly appreciate your new ideas. For it is from them that we keep the meetings interesting, well attended, and on target.

Check out the Guild's website

The Collins Woodworkers Guild website is available for viewing on the World Wide Web at:
www.collinsclubs.com/woodworkers

Guild Benefits

- ◆ Access to our Extensive Library and Tool Collection
- ◆ Open Exchange of Ideas
- ◆ Social Activities
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Opportunity to Help our Community through Toys-for-Tots Program
- ◆ Educational & Informative Presentations
- ◆ Open Houses
- ◆ Tours
- ◆ Discounts at:
 - Puckett Tools & Fasteners
 - Woodsmith Store - Des Moines

Knot Knews

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