

Steam Bending

By: Larry Tjaden

Larry will give a presentation on Bending Wood with Steam. He will bring a steamer and some example pieces he has been working on. We'll be "Cookin' in the Cafeteria". Also, we're going to have Pizza & Pop so bring your appetite.

Last Month's Meeting

The June meeting was attended by 19 members and guests the topic was Jigs and Fixtures - Show & Tell. President Krepcik brought the meeting to order with discussion on future meetings and invited all members to attend the planning committee meetings that are now being held in the 35th street cafeteria. Fourth Tuesdays at 5:00 o'clock. Larry Tjaden described some new features that are being planned for the website to allow an interactive library check out feature as well as member contribution to the contents of the site using web-forms.

John West, Floyd Wesselink, and Jerry Showman won the door prizes. Emil started the show & tell with a super-modified hobby horse he salvaged. Mark brought several home-made tools including a bench hook, a centering jig, a cross-measuring tool, and a circle fixture for a router. Larry Lacy brought three boxes that Wayne built to house the Library's door frame router guide sets. Wayne brought a nice box he built for his chisel set. Photos on page 2.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 18th 5:00
35th Street Cafeteria

Website Overhaul

By Larry Tjaden
(part II)

Last month I noted some changes we can make to the club's website to make it easy to check items in and out of the library and to allow all members an opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of the website.

I have developed the baseline pages for the new Library check out functions and have an example page running now. I also have a new Links page for presenting a site description along with the URL. It has a form that any member can fill in to add to the link collection. I might add a activity counter to indicate site usage or maybe a star rating system judged by our members. Presently, these pages are running on my office PC that is operating as the server.

After publishing last month's newsletter, Larry Wood asked if we could somehow make the pages available for the retired members, and for all employees, at home.

Larry had a good idea there... At this writing, it looks like we are going to host the entire website outside of the company therefor satisfying all concerned. Soon you will be able to access www.CollinsClubs.Com from your home computer and read all about our club ... and others. We choose a generic domain name to allow other Collins clubs to use, and

to help pay, for the site. Don't worry, we will still be able to view everything through the company's RWEB.

Some of the contents of the external site will be members-only by placing it behind a password-accessed gateway. By doing so, the membership list, library check out, and other internal pages will not be available to the rest of the world wide web users. I have developed an administrative access section for Kelley, Larry, and Lee etc. to maintain the library and membership database.

This thing will take me a few weeks to get assembled and tested, but you can be sure I'll inform the club when it's ready to GO LIVE.

Amana Furniture Shop Tour Vern Mc Cormick Facilitator

Vern has agreed to take the lead in organizing a trip to the Amana Furniture Store. He has learned that the store has regular tours at 11:00 and 1:00 on Saturdays – likewise on weekdays – but it may be a little hard to arrange an evening tour in that the normal staff will not be available. Luckily, Holtzfest is coming up August 18, 19, and 20 at Little Amana. We could probably work a special tour at 3:00 Saturday the 19th which will allow some time at Holtzfest - down by Interstate 80, the tour, and hopefully a meal at one of the restaurants. Vern will gladly accept opinions about the trip and the timing thereof. Give him a call or send an e-mail.

Net Humor By Mark Clark

USENET news groups, the Internet's public bulletin board facility, contain some discussions of woodworking and tools. When a participant has found a great deal or come across an especially rare old tool, they share that information in the form of a "gloat." Recently a "newbie," thinking he'd really impress everyone, posted a note bragging about having found a piece of stationary woodworking equipment at a great price. Rather than the usual ooohs and aaahs, what he got in response were a lot of snide remarks and posts belittling his treasure. It turned out he had violated the etiquette of the gloat. Finally, someone came to his rescue with the following post.

Examples of a gloat and how to do it:

1) My next door neighbor, Miss September 1998 recently lost her father. She offered me his complete collection of pre-WWII Stanley planes in exchange for the use of my pool during the summer. I have a question on the best way to sharpen the irons. (this would be two gloats)

2) While at the sawmill, I ran into an old man with a pickup truck full of kiln-dried quilted cherry. He was going to give it to the sawmill operator but took my offer of \$20 for all 300 b.f. Would it be best to store this in the attic or basement?

3) A buddy of mine who works at the Post gave me a heads up on a lady who called the classifieds with a 30 year old Unisaw for \$100 I called her and went over to look at the saw. After viewing the saw in PRISTINE condition, my conscience got the better of me and I told her the price was WAY to low and she should at

least ask \$500 for it. She told me it was her husband's idea to list it for that price and find out if there were any honest people left in the world. He only wanted his tools to go to an honest person and then gave me the entire workshop in exchange for keeping up her yard for the summer. Her single daughter, the corporate attorney/Hooter's waitress would come over later to give me all the paper work. Now my question is what would be the best way to wire the shop for the saw.

Notice that you never come right out and say "I've got this great gloat" and that none of these involve air compressors or nailers...

For Sale

Sears 1.5 hp Router with additional Vermont American base and bushing kit, \$40;

Sears Router Guide, \$10;

Sears Aluminum Router Table (18" w x 13" d x 11" h), \$25;

Dremel, 2 speed, 16 inch scroll saw with stand, \$65

Wayne Hanson, work x5893, home 366-0345

June Meeting Photos

Mark Clark demonstrates a home-make extendable measuring jig.

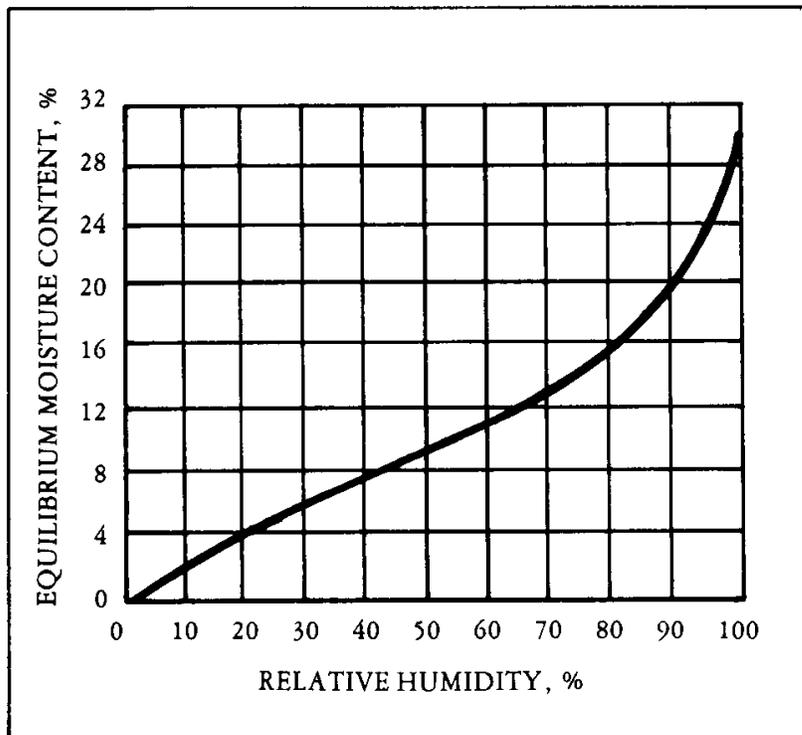
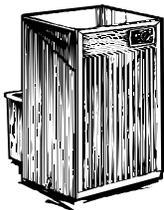


Wayne Hanson brought this fine chisel box.

Relative Humidity

By Wayne Hanson

Every spring I start a humidifier in my basement to keep my wood from soaking up moisture as all that summer heat and humidity arrive. My humidifier has a very nice control with 10 hacks with the center marked as "Normal". This all seems pretty straightforward and works just fine – as far as it goes. It occurred to me this spring that "Normal" didn't mean much or at least didn't give me very much information. To get a better idea what the humidity really was, I went to my local Radio Shack store and bought a handy dandy LCD temperature/humidity meters. I left the meter in the basement for a while and found that the relative humidity was 42%. Now I had more information but not what the moisture content of the wood would be in that environment. For my next step, I turned to one of my references – *Fine Woodworking on Wood and How To Dry It*. The last piece of the puzzle came from the chart reproduced with this article. According to the chart, the wood in my basement should stabilize at approximately 8%, which is nicely in the range for good woodworking. Without a dehumidifier, basements are a pretty lousy place to store wood. Depending on the house, basement humidity can easily rise into the 90% range in the summer. If that were the case, your fine kiln dried wood would absorb enough moisture to qualify as construction lumber for the Menard's lot. Moisture is pretty hard on cast iron tools too. Humidifiers are like miniature air conditioners so they will raise your electric bill a bit but the benefits will come back as stable wood projects and reduced maintenance on your tools.



Newsletter Distribution

Steve Lutterell made a good suggestion the other day. He noted that now that the Knot Knews is being published on the website there are probably members that don't really need a printed copy. Sound good to the editor. Maybe we could save a tree or two in the process. The new membership database has a newsletter delivery option that can be set to home, work, or none. For the time being we will assume everyone wants paper and think up a way to poll the membership for their individual opinions. We will add a box to next year's sign-up sheet. Thanks Steve.

Think Christmas ...

There may not be any snow in the forecast but in just a couple of short months we'll be thinking about Toys-For-Tots and our own family's home-crafted wood gifts. The Planning Committee will be meeting in the 35th street cafeteria for a while to allow more participation. All future meetings have to be arranged in advance ... so stop by and help dream-up a meeting topic or two. Remember, we meet on the fourth Tuesday starting at 5:00.

A Year Ago This Month

Paul Trantor gave a presentation on operating the Guild's *Drill Doctor* drillbit sharpener. Emil Krepcik gave a follow-on demonstration on how to use the Guild's *Makita* sharpener. Twenty-one members and guests were present.

Example of the new "Links" page

The first figure shows the "Links" page. Each line contains a brief description about the subject website on the left and the site's URL on the right. There are seven basic category headers: Catalogs, Clubs, Manufacturers, Magazines, Wood-related, and Miscellaneous. All of the information you see is extracted from a database stored on the host computer. When you request the page it is build just for you each time.

The list can grow to be any length ... and the contents can be updated you. If you click on the invitation to contribute you will be taken to a form with areas for the URL, a brief description, and the site category. When you press "Submit", the information is added to the database for all to see. If you make a mistake, don't worry. Clicking on the edit invitation line will display the entire database with a numbered hyperlink on the left side to pull-up another form for editing the data.

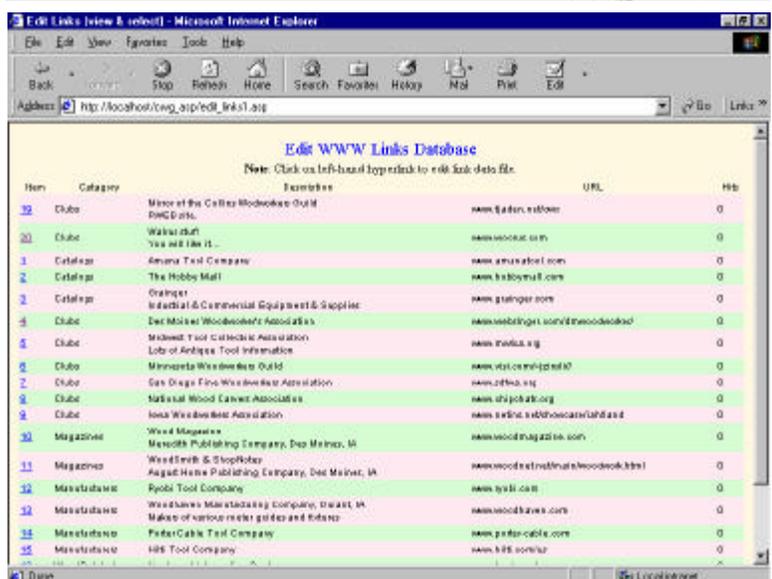
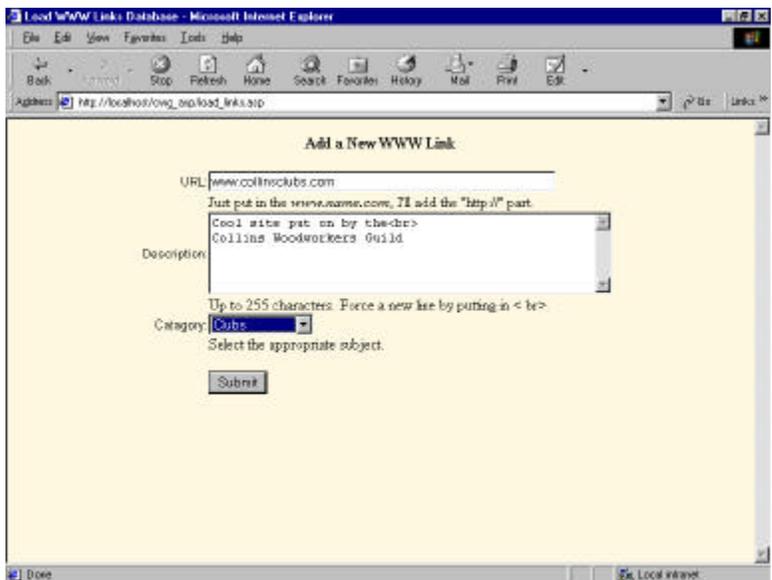
A couple of notes.

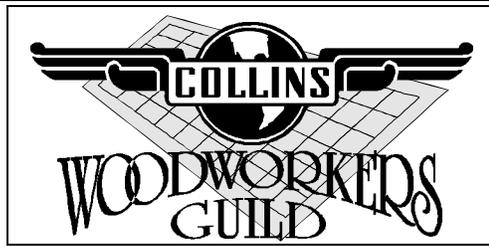
1. Be sure to check your link when you're finished.
2. In the description area you can jump to the next line by ending a line with
 for break. You can press the enter button to the make the form go to the next line.
3. You can edit any of the fields.

This is the first example of member-edited web pages. One of the next areas that is in need of help is the local lumber and hardwood suppliers pages. Soon we will be looking for a member to keep the contents up to date and accurate. The editing tools for these pages will need to behind the password-protected firewall to keep the public from messing with our data.

Next Knot Knews

Mark Clark has been working with a software program that helps layout a cut list based upon the required piece-parts and the material you have on hand. He is writing an article for the August issue of *Knot Knews*.





Collins Woodworkers Guild Officers and Executive Committee

President:

Emil Krepcik 484-2435 krepcik@netins.net

Vice President:

Mark Clark 5-3872 mwwclark@collins.rockwell.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Rich Beckett 5-5192 rwbeckett@collins.rockwell.com

Membership:

Kelley Kirtz 5-3554 klkirtz@collins.rockwell.com

Library Staff:

Larry Lacy 5-8471 ldlacy@collins.rockwell.com

Lee Johnson 5-3014 lajohns2@collins.rockwell.com

Toys For Tots Committee:

Bob Flood 5-0341 rlflood@collins.rockwell.com

Emil Krepcik 484-2435 krepcik@netins.net

Guild Photographer:

John Cox 5-3198 jlcox@collins.rockwell.com

Newsletter & Website:

Larry Tjaden 5-8024 ldtjaden@collins.rockwell.com
larry@tjaden.net

Joseph Gorman 5-3030 jegorman@collins.rockwell.com

Steering Committee: (in addition to above mentioned)

Wayne Hanson 5-5893 wghanson@collins.rockwell.com
hanson.wayne@mcleod.net

Scott Nesseler 5-2278 shnessel@collins.rockwell.com

Ted Hess 5-4476 tfhess@collins.rockwell.com



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 Kelley Kirtz at klkirtz@collins.rockwell.com and give her your new (home) address.

Future Meeting Topics

August 15, Amana Holtzfest, Furniture Shop Tour

September 19, Membership Drive

October 17, Getting ready for Toys-For-Tots

Suggestions:

Visit: Woodhaven Company - Durant, IA, Pella Window Company - Pella, IA, Bacon Veneer Company - Grundy Center, IA

Check out the Guild's website

<http://rweb.rockwell.com/data/clubs/cwc/>
The Collins Woodworkers Guild website is now available for viewing on the world wide web at

<http://www.tjaden.net/cwc/>

Some pages (ie. membership list) are restricted from view

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:
 - Eastern Iowa Supply
 - Woodsmith Store - Des Moines
 - Puckett Tools & Fasteners

Knot Knews

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Attn: Larry Tjaden MS 192-101

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