

THE WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON

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www.wwch.org

PROGRAMS

By Ken Kooser

As your president, I get cards and letters... not a lot, but some.

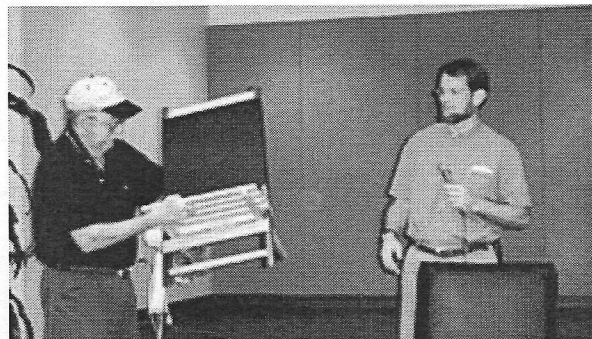
I recently received correspondence about our last two programs. This is always a good news-bad news situation. First the good news; its great to hear what the members want and like. Your officers and board members are not mind readers. Thanks to the few members who give of their time and attend the board meetings after the regular club meetings. I firmly believe that is where members should complain - and praise – the club management for good and not-so-good actions. Let's use our limited meeting time for woodworking. It would certainly be inappropriate for me to comment on a meeting I did not attend. Accordingly, August is off limits.

But I recall a few years ago when a lot of grumbling was being done about a program featuring nail guns. The kind of guns framers and carpenters use. Many of the board members thought the program 'stunk' but the crowd hung around asking questions and was talking to the speaker for over a half an hour while we were trying to hold the board meeting. The job of program chairman is a tough one. Speakers cancel at the last hour. Occasionally, we get a program that does not fit the club. Some miss our Mission Statement by a country mile. In my opinion, our September program did nothing to "help members improve their wood working skills and techniques and to promote safer wood working habits and conditions". But it was somewhat relevant, not just a few of our members wonder why our adult children don't have the same passion for creating from wood that we do. One of my letter writers said he considered walking out, but felt that would be rude.

Maybe it would have been rude, but hanging in when you have no interest, in my opinion, is just as bad. I've been a member for six years, with six different program chairmen. Only three served out their entire year. It's a tough job and we will need a new one in January. In my opinion, Paul Koury has done a great job with our programs. We are a (too small) representative group of the fourth largest city in the country and as woodworkers have many diverse interests. We have had some programs on woodturning; some of our long-time members are great wood turners and have given excellent programs. Since I don't have a lathe, should I have walked out? No, I hung on due to the respect I have for the speaker. Should we always? No, but let's lighten up and enjoy what we get. Thanks for your suggestions. And please keep the cards and letters coming.

– Ken

This collapsible chair was made by **Rob Brayton** after attending Todd Burch's splinter group in Katy. The chair is made of red oak with a canvas cloth.



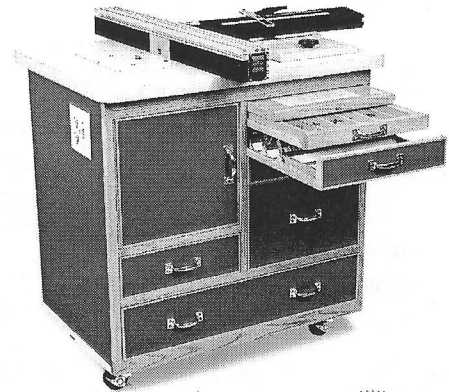
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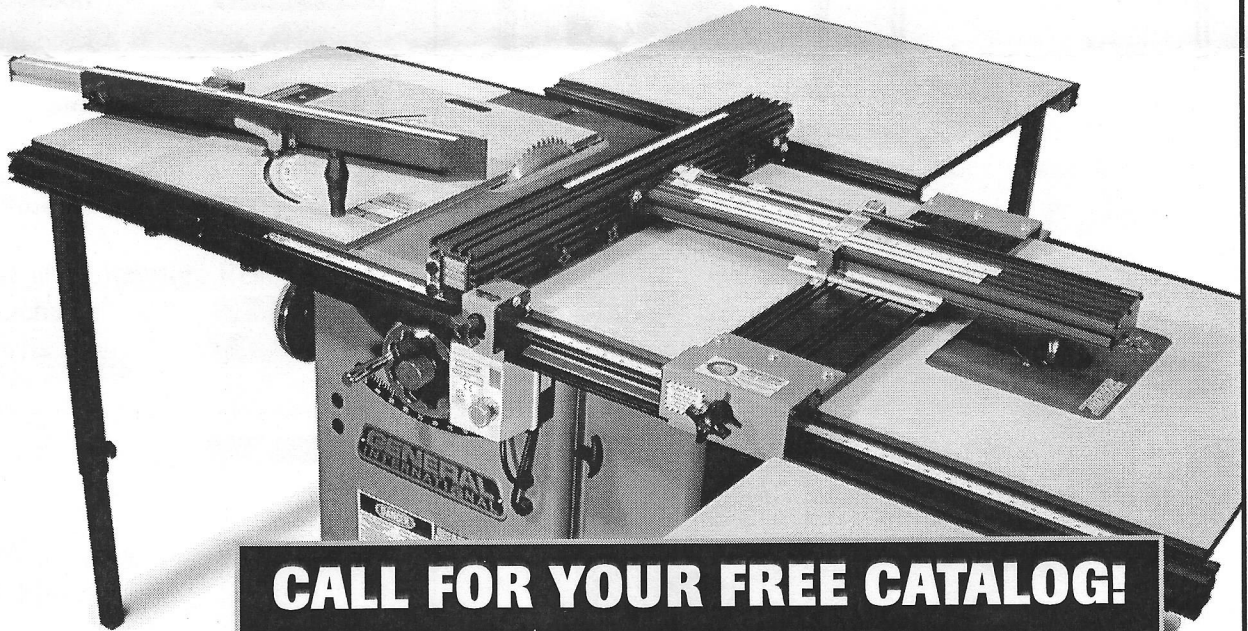
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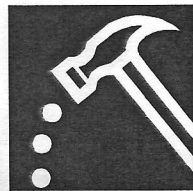
REMINDER!!

Dues are \$24 per year.

Dues are prorated for new members only.

Renewing members in October are \$24.

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Eddy Arnold created this fantastic chair and footstool out of white oak. The chair, built in the Morris Craftsman style, sports a golden oak finish topped with 100% tung oil. Excellent work, Eddy!

PROJECT OF THE MONTH -- BALL-DRILLING JIG

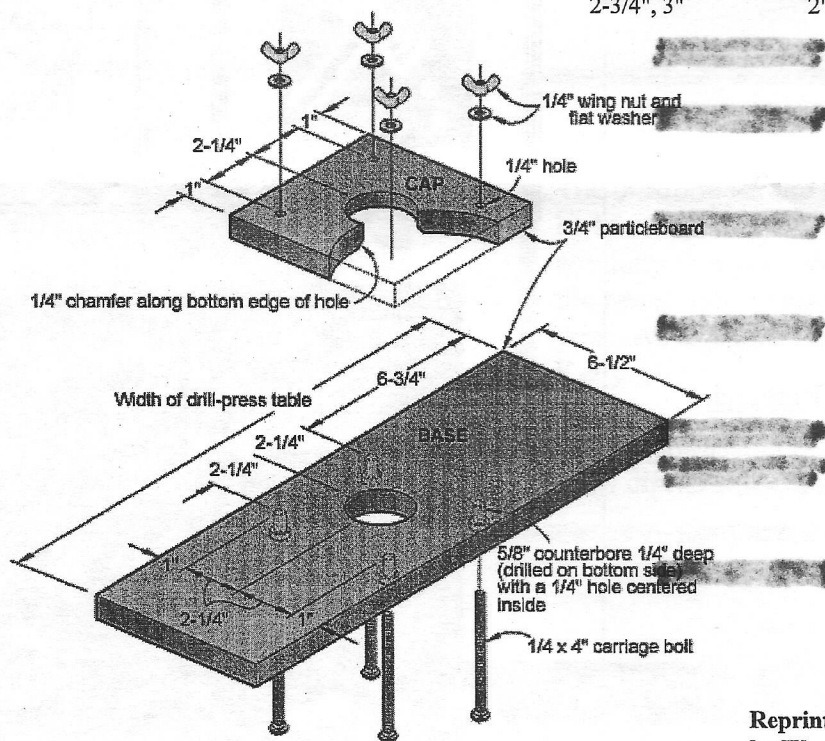
The tall clock project from the October 2000 issue of WOOD® magazine calls for drilling perfectly centered holes in hardwood balls. While you can hold a ball securely in a wood handscrew, centering it under the bit on your drill press is difficult.

Solve both problems with this quick-to-build jig. To make it easy to clamp the jig to your drill press, make the length of the base the same as the width of your drill-press table.

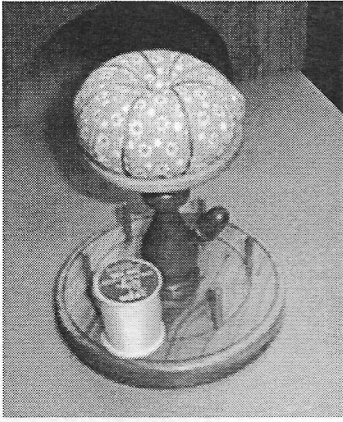
Drill the counterbored holes for the carriage bolts and the large holes in the base and cap. (See the Jig Hole Guide at right.) Insert the bolts, and center the jig by lowering the bit back into the hole and holding it there while you clamp the jig to your drill-press table. Place the ball over the hole, slide the cap down on the protruding carriage bolts, and tighten it onto the ball with washers and wing nuts. Chuck in the proper bit and drill away.

JIG HOLE GUIDE

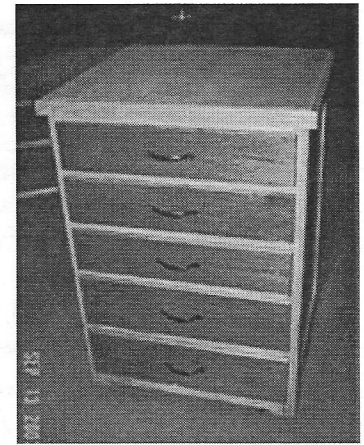
Ball Dia.	Hole Dia.
3/4"	1/2"
1"	3/4"
1-1/4", 1-1/2"	1"
1-3/4", 2"	1-1/2"
2-1/4", 2-1/2"	1-3/4"
2-3/4", 3"	2"



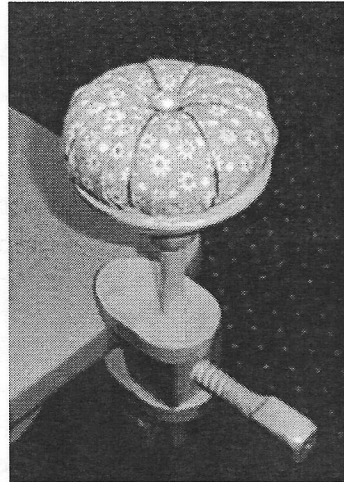
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Left & Below: These pin cushions were crafted by **Dean Hemphill** in the Shaker style. Both cushions are made of maple & the cushions are full of wood shavings.



Above: This rollaway tool cabinet was built by **Frank Dorr**. All of the joints are box joints made with a router. The cabinet is made of oak and pine. The drawers have false fronts.



SAWDUST SAFETY

By **Saul Harris**

“Let me just knock this out real quick. I will be careful.” Have you ever said that to yourself? It’s really interesting how we look back on an incident and see that if we had used common sense in the first place, we would not have gotten injured. In this case, the guy who got hurt was me. Yeah, besides the physical pain and scar, the mental anguish of admitting that I violated one of my own safety rules – ‘if you’re in a hurry, don’t do it’ – bothers me most. While I am fine now, it could have been worse. I saw the possibility of the drill slipping and me getting hurt. But I did what most of you would have done...I thought, “I will be careful and it won’t slip.” And I was careful but, yep, you guessed it, the screw did not cooperate and it slipped. The #2 Phillips bit plunged into my hand leaving a perfect 4-point hole in my hand. I was putting a drywall screw into a cabinet. The screw and drill were at about eye level. That means I did not have the leverage I would have preferred. I knew better but it was the next-to-the-last screw for the night.

We remove guards from our saws. We try holding things by hand instead of using a clamp. We make ‘a quick cut’ without safety glasses. All of those violate the rules. There are many safety rules for the shop. They are pretty much all common sense. So, if you look at an operation you are doing and see that there is even a moderate possibility that you might get hurt, please don’t perform that operation. Find another way to do it. If you don’t, you may end up with an injury more severe than a perfect Phillips screwdriver-style puncture in your hand.

Saul Harris is Chief Operating Officer of Jointech, Inc., a San Antonio -based manufacturer of ultra-precision woodworking tools. Saul has been a member of the Woodworker’s Club of Houston for over 13 years and has held most every office in the club except Treasurer (which he never wanted). He invites your suggestions & comments at saul@sawdustcreek.com.

LIBRARY REPORT

By John Gay

Well, our library keeps getting larger and heavier each month. Before I get to the new books, I want you to know that we have some books dealing with September's topic. These are not books on toys or furniture for kids. We have a lot of very good books on those subjects.

We also have some books about teaching woodworking. We have *The Junior Woodworker* by C. Hayward (W-01). This book is very good for teaching younger people the skills for safe woodworking. Along with that one we have several books for the beginning woodworker. They are: *Beginning Woodworking* (V-01), *Woodworking Simplified* (W-07), *Cabinet Making for Beginners* (W-08), *The Practical Woodworker* (V-09) and *Tage Frid Teaches Woodworking* (X-00). A new donation to our library is *Woodworking for Everybody* (B-05). These are all good books to learn by and we have other books that you may want to read first.

Has anyone been to the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft yet? It is a nice place with some really good woodworking. I saw several turnings by members of the wood turners club. At this time, there is some road construction with the light rail system, but when you get around that, it is well worth the visit. It is at 4848 Main. Parking is at Arbor and Fannin.

We have had about 20 books donated to our library in the past couple of months. They cover a number of subjects like landscaping, home repair, furniture and other subjects. Just too many to list and tell you about separately. Yet there are some that are really interesting.

We have *1,000 Chairs* and, as the title suggests, it is about chairs. All kinds of chairs to look at, from thrones to things that are so modern that you may be challenged to figure out how to sit in them. So this is just plain fun to look at and be inspired by.

We now have a book entitled *Sharpening and Knife Making*. This publication is only 175 pages but it must have about 650 step-by-step photos in it. It is very clear with its subject.


Also, there is *Making Toys*. It should be called making toy cars and trucks because that is what the projects are. It has some of the best detailed and easy to read plans in it. The drafting on these projects is really good. There seems to be no missing information for making cars and trucks for the kids or yourself.

FROM THE EDITOR

By Justin Kelly

First of all, I would like to say thank you to Ken Kooser who first offered me the position of newsletter editor. It was, in conjunction with the management of the video library, exactly the outlet that I needed in order to become more involved in the Club. This year, I felt that I wouldn't be able to do both jobs to the greatest efficiency possible, and I decided to hand the video library off to another individual. Blaine Stokes was more than willing to take on this responsibility and I must say that he's done a great job! This year, however, I discovered that my undergraduate workload, additional school responsibilities, as well as preparing to begin law school next fall have proven to be very taxing. Therefore, I have decided not to return in 2004 as the newsletter editor.

Club member Bill White has been in the professional graphics industry for many years and has graciously volunteered to provide our Club with some of his outstanding talents as the newsletter editor for 2004. I am sure he will do a great job and I hope that you will join me in welcoming a new editor into our midst for another great year! I have had a blast doing the newsletter and thank you to all of those who have given me feedback on the job that I've done over the last two years. I've appreciated it a lot. Thanks!




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Prez Sez

By Ken Kooser

Times like this it's really great to be your president. This morning the Rockler West Regional Sales Manager bought my breakfast. Mr. Ron Shapland lives in Oregon and takes care of all of the Rockler stores in the west. He is a great fellow and I had a very nice visit. He had called me a month ago to set the appointment. His main question was "what can Rockler do for your club?" He is used to giving a \$25 gift certificate to the Portland, Oregon Guild every month. I gave him a copy of our newsletter and our picnic flyer and told him we were always looking for prizes for our event. He volunteered to present us with an autographed copy of Sam Maloof's new book. I'm sure his new store on the Southwest Freeway will advertise in our newsletter. Since he will probably be in town stocking and arranging his new store, I invited him to our picnic. I know that more than one of our club members interviewed for positions in the store. Good luck to all of you.

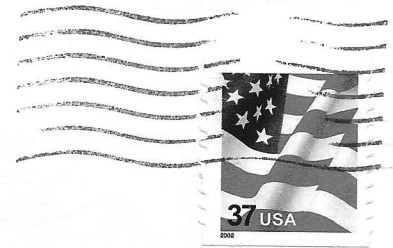
Other good things are happening to our club. Your board has discussed and agonized over the quality of the pictures in our monthly publication. In the past, the newsletter was "printed" and the pictures came out very nice. The cost of the printing versus copying is exactly double. That is why your board decided on copying. The way it works is Gary Rowen (club webmaster) takes digital photos of all show-and-tell items. He puts them on the website for all and anyone to view. Justin Kelly (newsletter editor) downloads the pictures and, after laying out the newsletter, has it copied. These two donate these actions and, so far, there has been no cost to the club. Then Justin takes the master to the shop where the newsletters are copied and folded. Labels are attached and they are mailed.

The plan is for each paid member to receive the newsletter the week before the monthly meeting. We spend an average of \$130 per month for the process. Printing would cost \$250 or more. Long-time member, past president, board member and all around great person Saul Harris now the COO for Jointech in San Antonio) has offered to laser print the newsletters in San Antonio in exchange for advertising. Your board accepted this offer. We will have some logistics to work out but the quality of the photos will improve dramatically.

In other news, we have a replacement newsletter editor starting the first of the year. Justin's school load is heavy and he has found his replacement. Mr. Bill White, who is a graphic designer (in addition to being a woodworker), has agreed to take the job.

Plans are going ahead for our annual picnic. Tickets are \$7.50 per person or \$14.00 per couple. We will have belt sander races again as well as many hand tools for sale. It's a club tool swap meet and some vendors may have displays with tools for sale. Don't miss this worthwhile event. It is for members and families only.

**WOODWORKERS CLUB OF HOUSTON
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