

# Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild



## SHOP CHATS

These are informal and informational gatherings for members and friends to meet, share their shops, projects and ideas with each other. If you can carpool, great, and bring a snack or beverage to share if you can. Any member is welcome any time to announce an impromptu shop-chat if they have a special project, tool, or idea they want to share with SWG members. Just send Tom an email with the date, time and place.

## TBA

If you've never had us visit, or have made changes to your shop, please invite us over. Got a great project going and want to discuss a work in progress - call us in! It's a great opportunity to share your shop, skills and background.



Lewis Meyers with his popular drafting table that he quickly sold (among other pieces!)

## Message from the President

*Hello SWG members,*

Welcome 2014! Did you know last Thanksgiving was a banner show for us with gross sales from the show topping \$19,000! That's probably the biggest income ever at our show, and easily double what recent years have brought in. We also hope that folks are getting some good follow-up jobs for a busy year ahead. It is surprising when one show does so well. Every show is impacted by a number of factors. Certainly we must acknowledge that our advertising efforts and articles in newspapers and announcements on JPR had a big impact informing folks about our presentation. The economic climate and political atmosphere seem to be important factors. There were no big elections to shadow us, although we did wonder what a 'sequester' would do to us. Don't forget about the weather - it was grand! A week later (the next Friday) our big storm hit! What a messy impact that had. We really got lucky.

Though a useful indicator, the SWG does not define success only in financial terms. There is a wonderful ambiance created by our communicative craftspeople along side their beautiful and quality products, some live music, and a room full of visitors. The holiday spirit helps. People have time to be curious about our work. Our show has become a much anticipated community event and more than just another crafts sale. So we can hoist our banner for all of 2013, since we had a fine year.

The Insight into Woodworking class series had good sign-ups and some new teachers. Our Shop-Chats continued to open the doors to several remarkable, unique work spaces. The Merchant Discount Program offered us deals at numerous local stores. The SWG web-site kept track of our activities, presented some of our

members, and allowed people to find a few useful forms. Our secretary has added several new members, and some new businesses onto our Resource List. These seemingly simple programs and opportunities add a lot of value to SWG members. Those members who have volunteered to maintain, prepare and present these activities allow us to provide useful services to many craftspeople and potential clients as well. The SWG banner of cooperation and networking waves in the breeze because of them!

*--Be sharp, Tom Phillips*



Russel Beebe and his awesome bench carving.

**Shop tales:** Sweat beads started accumulating as the dovetail ends of a small table would not clamp down. I was using my fancy Bessey square clamps. In desperation I grabbed my old dusty pipe clamps and whooosh - the dovetails clamped tight with little effort. I think I'll be using those ole pipe clamps more often! - Herb

## An ODE to Volunteering...

Dear SWG members,

For the last five years, I have been coordinating the Insight into Woodworking classes. It has always surprised me when members of the guild have thanked me for my effort. It seems to me that I should be thanking the guild for the opportunity to coordinate the classes. Coordinating the classes has given me the opportunity to meet so many nice people, people who take the classes, people who teach the classes, and other guild members. I have never been a professional woodworker. I am more a collector of tools than a craftsman. I consider it a privilege to have been a member of the guild, a member of the steering committee and the coordinator of the classes. Lately I've been feeling guilty hogging all this pleasure and not allowing other members of the guild the same chance to reach out. It is time for me to pass on the responsibility of the Insight classes to someone else.

I encourage you to become more involved in the guild. The benefits of volunteering far outweigh the costs. Please come to the annual meeting ready to get more involved. Consider visiting or hosting a Shop-Chat, help with the classes, or make plans for the fall show. I promise you'll be rewarded, far more than you expect, for your deeper involvement with the SWG. I will explain what it takes to be a coordinator at the meeting though you are welcome to contact me earlier with any questions.

When I mentioned at a steering committee meeting that one of the advantages of having a Shop-Chat was that it gives one a reason to clean up the shop, someone else suggested 'you don't have to'. To host a Shop-Chat all you need is a shop or an interesting project for us to investigate. Even if it is a small space in your garage, and covered with chips and dust, there are things to learn when folks share their process and techniques. The first shop chat I attended had us sitting outside because there was no room in the shop. I met some people and saw some outstanding work and a good way to organize a small shop. P.S. I have collected a lot of info. on discs and will be happy to help the next coordinator of the Insight classes feel comfortable with the job. Believe me, you'll love it. -- *Dan Fischer*



Fred Hatfield with his display of immaculate scale models.

## SWG 2014 Activity Schedule

### 1) Annual General Meeting:

**Sat. Feb. 1st from 10:00 am ~ noon** at the AHS shop on Eastern corner of Siskiyou Blvd. and Morse St. in Ashland. This is our biggest gathering of members during the year. We hope to fill the room and let people introduce themselves, assisting us in 'putting a face' to the many names on our SWG list. The coming year's activities will be presented and planned for. Election of the Officers and Steering Committee will be held. Seating, coffee, and muffins will be available. Bring a chair if you'll prefer.

**2) Shop-Chats:** We will be have a sign-up sheet at the AGM to start developing our visiting schedule for the year. Final TBA dates will go out in a postcard and put on our web-site.

**3) Teacher's Dinner:** TBA. Held in February at Brent Poulton's home.



Will Sears discussing the vagaries and vicissitudes of the art of bowl turning with a friend.



## OUR MISSION

The Siskiyou Woodcraft Guild is a regional association of woodworkers encouraging a wide range of skills, knowledge, and interests. Our mission is to offer fellowship by providing networking among our members. We value the principles and practices of fine woodworking by encouraging technical discussion and development. We promote an appreciation of quality workmanship to the general public by providing access to our products, experience, and design expertise through shows, classes, and other events.

## 2013 OFFICERS

### President

Tom Phillips  
trmpsworks@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

Jens Selm  
rachermann1@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Herbert Edwin Harris III  
sittingduckfinefurniture@yahoo.com

### Webmaster

Eric Olson  
ericinashland@gmail.com

### Steering Committee

Tom Phillips, Jay Treiger, Brent Poulton, Wayne Tarris, Jens Selm, Will Sears, Dan Fischer, Eric Olson, Herbert Edwin Harris III

**REMINDERS:** Please send contact information updates to Herb Harris. To save on mailing costs, notify Herb if you wish to receive only e-copies of our mailings. Also, we HIGHLY encourage members to post their bio's on our members website page! Contact our webmaster Eric Olson for more information!